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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Presidents Meet in Tubruq 24 March

LD2403203890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1953 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] Tubruq, 24 March 90, JANA—A meeting took place in the city of Tubruq this evening between the brother leader of the revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic in sisterly Syria; President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and General 'Uman Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Sudan.

During the meeting, which was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and lasted more than two and a half hours, Arab issues and ways of confronting the threats and dangers facing the Arab motherland and the imperialist threats against the Great Jamahiriyah were discussed.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Meet

JN2503080390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli—At 2300 yesterday, a closed meeting was held between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt at the place of residence of his excellency the president. The talks dealt with Syrian-Egyptian ties, the situation in the Arab region, and ways of confronting threats posed to the Arab nation through effective Arab solidarity.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday evening hosted a dinner banquet in honor of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The banquet was attended by members of the delegations accompanying the three presidents, Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, and secretaries of the people's committees in Tubruq. After the dinner banquet, a fun party was held. During the party, artists chanted, sang, and performed folklore arts.

At 1800 Damascus time yesterday, a meeting was held in Tubruq between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad; President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council; and Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Libyan revolution. The talks dealt with the Arab state of affairs, the perils posing threats to the Arab nation under the current circumstances, and the ways to face up to these perils through a strong Arab stand that would vindicate the nation's causes. [passage omitted]

AMU Infrastructure Committee Signs Minutes

LD2203234490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The minutes of the first meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Ministerial Committee for infrastructures were signed in Tripoli today were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transportation and the ministers of transportation, communications, posts, equipment, public works and planning of the AMU. The minutes stipulate an agreement on measures which might unify AMU member-countries' projects in communications and road, maritime, and air transport. It also stresses the need for planning future exploitation of water resources and exchanging expertise and experience in this field.

Denounces Threats to Libya

LD2403224390 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 23, JANA—The sessions of the first round for the ministerial committee specialized in the basic structure of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), held on 21 and 22 of this month, concluded at noon yesterday in Tripoli.

It issued a statement saying:

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was subjected since weeks to biased threats aimed at harming the brotherly Libyan people and to intervene in its internal affairs on the claim that Libya was producing chemical weapons at al-Rabitah plant.

The dangers such threat and its reflection pose on all the countries in the region and what complicated development it might produce demands more rank-closing and solidarity and to stand together in one line.

Such developments come at a time the AMU is carrying out a relentless continued work to lay the foundations of this union and through which it endeavours to turn the region into a region of stability and safety and to create an atmosphere of cooperation with all the states and blocs in which confidence and peace [words indistinct] basic structure, as it holds its meeting in Tripoli at this time, expressed its solidarity and standing by the side of the brotherly Libyan Arab people in confronting such challenge.

Signs Protocol on Infrastructure

LD2403225690 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 23 (JANA)—In Tripoli yesterday, the protocol of the first meeting of the ministerial committee of the basic structure in the Arab Maghreb Union was concluded.

It was signed by the secretary of the general people's committee for communications and marine transport and by his counterparts in the Arab Maghreb Union.

The protocol includes agreement on connecting Arab Maghreb Union countries with railway, establishing [word indistinct] transport unified company, treating the transport ships of the union [words indistinct] transport unified company, treating the transport ships of the union [words indistinct] they are national ships giving them crossing priority and the setting up of an organ for protecting marine environment against pollution equipped with up-to-date capabilities.

The protocol has stressed the best exploitation possible of the [word indistinct] area through the implementation of construction projects according to the available potentials in a [words indistinct] cross the borders apart from creating two rewards in the spheres of architecture and construction.

The protocol includes a draft rule for establishing the institutions of transporting people and goods together with establishing a unified transport company and civil aviation information center and air inspection center, apart from unifying measurements and the joint use of the existing facilities in the field of maintenance and training.

It specifies the complementation of the programs of maintaining communications giving them priority to enhance its competence and exchanging statements and information among the commissions in charge of operation and maintenance in the Arab Maghreb Union regularly every three months regarding the quality of the services rendered in connection with the measurements practised internationally, not to mention endorsing a unified plan to bring in the service of portable telephone to connect all the telephone networks among the Arab Maghreb Union, issuing regular postages to commemorate the anniversary of the convening of the meeting of the council of the chairmanship of the union, apart from establishing joint exhibitions for postage in turn and the generalization of the service of exchanging telegrams in Arabic among the public post offices.

The protocol also specifies the complementation of the connecting of the broder points among the Arab Maghreb Union advancing their level, improving them and adopting the principle of completing the highway among them giving this a priority as well as facilitating contacts with the Afro-Arab networks.

The protocol has stressed the necessity of the irrigation sector [words indistinct] work teams to conduct a study and coordinate among the specialized organs in the field [words indistinct] and specifiying joint projects, not to mention endorsing a future plan to make use of the water resources in the irrigation sector.

Al-Qadhdhafi To Head Islamic Popular Command

LD2503041490 Tripoli JANA English 1645 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In appreciation from the World Islamic Popular Command (WIPC) to the sincere and continued efforts exerted by the Muslim revolutinary brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and in the belief of WIPC in the instigating and continued role of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, his jihad for sublimity of Islam in various parts of the world so that Muslims take their suitable place over this planet and for their brave resistence to all crusading and Zionist hateful attempts which try to harm the Arab and Islamic nations, Muslim revolutionary Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been chosen leader for WIPC.

In a statement issued in Tripoli on the conclusion of its second general congress, WIPC decided to choose Great Jamahiriyah as general secretary of WIPC apart from choosing 35 member to the Genral Secretariat of WIPC representing various geographical and regional areas in the world.

The statement called upon the Muslim all over the world to tackle the dispute that may arise amongst them with a spirit of Islamic forgiveness and brotherhood to achieve the aspired solidarity and to foil the conspiracies awaiting to inflict harm to Islam and Muslims.

In its statement, WIPC called upon all Arab and Islamic states and organizations to back the efforts of sisterly Sudan in its confrontations with international conspiracies aimed at fragmenting the unity of the Sudanese Arab soil, tearing apart its people and to provoke unrest amongst its communities and sections and its condemns the Western conspiracies hidden under the veil of relief and humane services.

It also declared its denounciation for manipulating missionary work and religious methods to achieve colonial schemes in many Islamic countries. It asserts that such schemes contradict with all the noble values of the heavenly messages and contradict with the high duty of the heavenly religions.

WIPC asserted its adoptation of the just humane causes of Muslims in all parts of the globe. It declared its full support for them and called upon responsible states and governments in the concerned countries to abide by international charters and respect the rights of those Islamic communities and minorities and eliviate tryanny and oppression from them. [sentence as received]

WIPC expressed relief at the progress achieved to gain the respect for Muslim rights and recognition of the cultural and religious specialities and calls upon the Bulgarian Government to continue its positive steps to grant Bulgarian Muslims their rights.

WIPC called for the creation and the introduction of an Islamic data system and to establish institutions capable

of filling the existing vaccuum and strengthen the confrontation with the attempts by the hostile Western media to falsify and to achieve the aspirations of Muslims for a just coverage for their causes.

The final communique of WIPC included the endorsement of the commands draft charter, the endorsement of the draft constitution prepared by the temporary general secretariat apart from issuing the necessary resolutions to set up WIPC's structures and institutions laid down in the charter.

Kuwait To Withdraw From Arab Economic Council

JN2403172190 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi has confirmed to AL-ANBA' that Kuwait will withdraw from the Arab League's Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] following its notice to the Arab League in early March that it planned to withdraw from the AEUC within a year.

Al-Kharafi added that Kuwait will issue an official statement tomorrow to explain the reasons behind the decision to withdraw and list Kuwait's contributions to the AEUC budget in past years. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Libya-Sudan 'Solidarity Plan' Published

JN2503081190 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Mar 90 p 24

[Ahmad Hanaqah dispatch from Khartoum: "Text" of "Solidarity Plan" signed by Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli—date not given]

[Text] Having observed the realities of the world today, where big blocs are rising and becoming more prominent and where the small entities are becoming weaker; in view of the current state of disunity, fragmentation, and humiliation afflicting the Arab, Islamic, and African world; in fulfillment of the principle of unity, which is at the heart of the Islamic creed and the primary requisite of united Arabism; to ward off the onslaught of imperialism, Zionism, and crusaders who support each other to encroach on our beliefs and our right to a free and decent life; looking forward to the accomplishments and successes awaiting the unity of our hearts and arms so that we can defend our dignity and genuine character, promote our lives and prosperity, and fulfill our mission in the world, it has been decided, in the name of God and through His support, that solidarity between the Republic of Sudan and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiryah be organized in accordance with the following:

Objectives

1. To integrate the popular and official action programs in the political, economic, social, diplomatic, and military fields in pursuit of overall unity;

2. To struggle together for the revival of an Arab, Islamic, African awakening on the continental and world levels to achieve an international order based on peace, justice, and cooperation;

3. To work within the framework of Arab, Islamic, and African relations with the existing Arab cooperation groupings, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the OAU in order to expand cooperation and coordination and to boost unity action;

4. To advance the concepts of cooperation and unity and work to realize them among the Arab, Islamic, and African countries on the level of bilateral and regional relations and through the organizations grouping these countries, such as the ICO, the Arab League, and the OAU.

Program

1. Politics: To unify visions and assessments relating to various political stands; to hold joint meetings between the General People's Congress and the Popular Committees Congress, as well as between other equal political bodies in order to coordinate political action; and to coordinate work between diplomatic missions and exchange information and joint programs.

2. Economy: To achieve economic integration and cooperation in financial policies and to endeavor to standardize the tax and monetary systems.
—The financial institutions:
—Industry and agriculture: To set up projects and contribute in existing projects through finance, work force, and management on the basis of joint interest.
—Transportation and telecommunications: To open the roads linking the two countries; link railways; and unify the telephone, post, and air freight services.
—Trade: To pave the way for trade across the borders, free trade exchange of any restrictions, and standardize the systems relating to domestic and foreign trade.
—Energy: To link electricity grids; combine the utilities used in the exploration, exploitation, and distribution of oil; and boost and take part in joint research in the fields of solar energy and mineral resources.

3. Education, Culture, and Guidance:
—To coordinate and standardize the educational curriculum and systems used by the institutions of university and higher education and in scientific research and educational production.
—To emphasize the Arab, Islamic, and African culture, and to cooperate and endeavor to spread it around the world, particularly in Africa.
—To unify radio and television coverage and press services in both countries and to organize the exchange of information.

4. Social Affairs:
—To unify the laws on the basis of Islamic shari'ah and to coordinate the programs of social guidance and organization.

—To unify the services of health and social care and to manufacture medicines and medical instruments.
—To boost relations between the masses, remove all obstacles restricting movement, achieve integration between the two countries, and achieve equality and unity between them.

5. Security:
—To exchange security information and coordinate the movement of the security organs.
—To standardize the military curriculum and cooperate in military and regular training systems.
—To reach military agreements for supply and joint defense.

6. Thought:
—To spread the Islamic da'wah and preach the Islamic teachings and values in the world.
—To strengthen the Arabic language and culture in education and spread them in the world.
—To organize Arab-Islamic-African intellectual dialogue to bring the views and schools of thought closer to each other and to preach unity.

Executive Structures

First, on the official level, and this includes the supreme council, the ministerial council, and the general secretariat

1. The Supreme Council:

This is made up of the leaders of the two countries and is entrusted with the following:
—To push the solidarity movement forward; formulate the higher plans; and charge the competent authorities with preparing certain plans to implement the progressive practical program, and to agree on, and ratify, that program in accordance with the effective regulations in each country.
—To follow up the implementation of the projects and programs agreed upon.
—To coordinate general policies and positions.
—To appoint the solidarity council's secretary general.
—The Supreme Council is to hold an alternate meeting each year in one of the two countries. It can hold extraordinary meetings if agreed upon.
—The Supreme Council is to be headed, alternately, by one of the two countries' leaders for a full year.

2. The Ministerial Council:

This is made up of the ministers in the fields of foreign affairs, finance, economy, industry, agriculture, education, labor, justice, defense, energy, and mining, in addition to the supreme command of the regular forces. It is also possible to add any other ministries or government departments as the need requires.

The Ministerial Council is entrusted with the following:
—To study practical plans for implementing the scientific program and to follow up implementation measures.
—To follow up implementation of the plans which have been adopted and agreed upon.
—To take measures to implement the decisions of the Supreme Council.
—To approve and amend the bylaws organizing the Ministerial Council and the administrative and financial systems of the General Secretariat.
—To review the secretary general's reports on the progress of the solidarity programs.
—To approve the General Secretariat's budget.
—To form permanent and temporary committees as the need requires.

The Ministerial Council shall hold an ordinary meeting once every six months in the state which chairs the Supreme Council. The meeting shall be headed by the head of the state holding the chairmanship or his deputy. It is possible to hold extraordinary meetings through mutual agreement.

3. The General Secretariat:

The secretary general of the solidarity shall be appointed from among the citizens of the two solidarity states for a two-year term which is renewable.

The employees of the General Secretariat shall be appointed from among the citizens of the two solidarity states.

The secretary general is the executive president of the General Secretariat of the solidarity. He is directly responsible to the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council on the work and performance of the secretariat. He shall undertake the following tasks under the supervision of the head of the state holding the chairmanship:
—To follow up implementation of the decisions of the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council;
—To prepare the necessary reports pertaining to the work of the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council;
—To follow up the popular organizations' contacts, meetings, and joint work programs and to submit reports on them to the Supreme Council and the Ministerial Council;
—To prepare the draft budget and final accounts of the solidarity program and institutions;
—To propose administrative and financial systems for the General Secretariat and to submit them to the Ministerial Council;
—To appoint and terminate the services of General Secretariat employees.

Second, on the popular level:

Continuous contacts and meetings for coordination and integration shall take place between nongovernmental organizations in the two solidarity states in the following fields in accordance with a program to be prepared and approved by the organizations concerned:

Youth organizations: intellectual, educational, and work camps, preparation for jihad, intellectual dialogue, national projects, and services.

Women's organizations: intellectual camps, preparation for jihad, social and health services programs, and so forth.

Voluntary organizations: welfare and relief work, reconstruction, development, Islamic call, and so forth.

Student organizations: intellectual dialogue, national service, and voluntary work projects.

Trade unionist organizations: justice, production, and distribution issues.

Parallel local government administrations: twinning of cities, exchange of experiences in the field of development and urban, rural, and local administration.

General Rules

—The solidarity plan will first be approved by the highest political leaderships in the two countries. It shall then be submitted to the legislative institutions to be approved as law in accordance with a Solidarity Charter which shall be binding on both states.

—The Solidaity Charter shall be revised after four years so that it will lead to complete unity. The charter may be amended at any meeting of the Supreme Council, provided that the amendment is implemented by law under existing procedures.

—An agreement on the headquarters will be concluded to establish the General Secretariat and its various departments and privileges in one of the solidarity states.

—The Solidarity Charter will not cancel any international agreements or cooperation systems to which either of the solidarity states belong. The provisions of the charter shall be coordinated with the obligations of those agreements and systems.

As far as Sudan is concerned, unity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah has become an immediate necessity in order to ensure oil, which is using up much of the country's financial resources. Sudan needs oil for the production of electricity and thermal power, running agricultural pumps, and for normal consumption as gasoline for vehicles. A continuous supply of oil has become significant for stability in Sudan and for the satisfactory performance of the various sectors. Furthermore, the Libyan Government believes that Sudan has a vast agricultural potential which must be exploited in the interest of the Arab nation in order to ensure its food security and its requirements of manufactured goods. This is also essential for integration, joint development, and the exchange of expertise. The unity of Sudan and Libya is essential, because Sudan will provide the expertise, the technical cadres, and the potential natural resources, while Libya will ensure the financial wealth from oil resources, which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has described as abundant when he said that "Libya is swimming in a lake of oil."

Despite the fact that the Sudanese have always claimed that there is oil in their country, domestic and international factors prevent the exploitation of oil and the realization of this dream, which is cherished by all Sudanese nationals. The large number of educated people in Sudan is viewed as a plus for joint development between the two neighboring states. Technical expertise is important in developing military capabilities. Expertise, particularly military expertise within the two regular armies and popular defense forces in the two countries, would be exchanged. The Libyans would benefit from the experience gained by the highly efficient Sudanese troops in combat in southern Sudan, since these troops have been engaged in military operations there for 23 years. Moreover, the Libyan military establishment has absorbed a sophisticated technology which is relatively more advanced than the technology being used by the Sudanese Army, which has been suffering from a shortage of military equipment and ammunition during the past few years. Within the framework of this step, it would be possible to consider how to build a unified popular army benefitting from the experience of arming the Libyan people and that of popular defense in Sudan.

It is well-known that the two armies cooperated more than once in military operations against rebels in southern Sudan and on the borders of neighboring states. The reference here is particularly to the Libyan Air Force Corps, which provided good air cover to Sudanese infantrymen in combing operations against the rebels in villages and forests in southeastern Sudan. Libyan arms supplies are viewed as a crucial element in the realization of victory by the government or in the imposition of peace on rebel Colonel John Garang's movement, since the weapons being used by the so-called Sudanese People's Liberation Army forces in combat zones are made in the USSR and Eastern bloc states.

Hence, the Libyan-Sudanese military cooperation remains a form of unmistakably crucial support for Sudan's state budget, since the war is depleting the state treasury—which is not in good shape in the first place. The treasury funds are generated by the exports of overage projects, the expatriates' remittances, and foreign loans and aid which have been suspended because of the recent aggravation of differences between world financial bodies and the Sudanese Government on how to apply a realistic economic program designed to end the crisis.

The Necessities of Unity

Politically, and due to its people's awareness, Sudan is receptive to any unionist formula. Fear of being swallowed up is impossible due to its huge population. Moreover, Sudan is currently moving toward the adoption of a formula, similar to that of the revolutionary committees in Libya, through the people's committees whose bases have been set up in suburbs and rural areas, and through organizing a general congress for the

Sudanese people. Joint organizations may be established in accordance with the plan drawn up for the two countries for the eventual fulfillment of the dream of unity, which is scheduled to take place after four years.

The Jamahiriyah welcomed the plan in a manner stressing its desire to bring about its aspired success. Although it was Sudan that proposed the plan, the Libyan side approved it after introducing some amendments and suggestions so that the two sides' viewpoints would be identical. Following the adoption of the plan, Col. al-Qadhdhafi stressed that "there is need for unified action to confront the challenges." He also said: We are approaching a new and serious stage toward changing the map and we are trying to reorganize our home. This is our will. We have not committed aggression against anyone and we do not want anyone to obstruct our march. Al-Qadhdhafi voiced optimism over the escalation of unionist action between Libya and Sudan in the coming stage.

Confronting the Enemy

The new solidarity plan is considered an attempt to break out of the dilemma of Arab fragmentation under the present international accord, the future European unity, and the changing status of the two superpowers. It is also an attempt to search for ways leading to a common Arab market as announced from time to time. Before the plan, Sudan was in an embarrassing situation, since the Sudanese presence in unionist plans with other countries like Somalia, South Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon was suspended. Many Sudanese expressed their dissatisfaction with the Arab society's attitude toward their country and with the three Arab blocs' disregard of the relatively large Sudanese unit, which is geographically and strategically important. This corresponded with an escalating tone of Africanization in Sudan and stepped-up military operations and international intelligence services' backing of sabotage forces in the South.

Hence, the new unionist situation with Libya has solved an internal Sudanese problem, since the country was separated from its Arab fold—something with which Sudan has lived with since the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, which were set up without its knowledge. On the other hand, voices within Sudan called for the search for a suitable formula to link Sudan with the various Arab blocs.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Land Day Rally in Tunis

Renews Call for Summit

JN3003185690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has reiterated his call for the convening of an urgent Arab summit to confront Zionist threats to several Arab countries. In a speech to a mass rally in Tunis today on the anniversary of Land Day, brother President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the immigration of Jews from the USSR and East Europe to Palestine is a threat to Arab security, in addition to being a violation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and international laws and conventions.

He said the occupation authorities, who dream of fulfilling the scheme of Greater Israel, do not want peace; they seek war and are preparing for it, he added. Brother President Yasir 'Arafat strongly denounced the so-called alternative homeland plan and said the land of the Palestinians is Palestine, not Jordan, and the Palestinians have only one homeland, whose capital is Jerusalem. Brother Yasir 'Arafat condemned the unlimited U.S. support for Zionist terrorism and demanded a Namibian-style solution be applied to grant the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Questions U.S. Credibility

LD3003190790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Tunisia, which always stands by the struggling Palestinian people, participated in the celebrations of the Day of the Land. The Democratic Constitutional Rally [DCR] organized a big gathering today in the Labor Hall in Tunis.

The gathering was attended from the DCR by Mr. Hamed Karoui, acting for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali' and the Palestinian leadership headed by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

In his address, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said: We meet in Tunisia to celebrate the Day of the Land under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali' and under the patronage of the struggling Tunisian people, who have always supported the Palestinian people. On this anniversary we salute the angry generation who displayed the greatest heroism.

Now we call for the second round after our enemy refused the international peace initiatives.

Mr. 'Arafat recalled the Palestinian and Arab peace initiatives and the initiatives of President Mitterrand, President Gorbachev, the nonaligned countries and others.

As a result of the enemy's maneuvers, the Israeli Government collapsed. It was brought down by the Palestinian stones and the mature political program of the PLO.

In this context, 'Arafat added: It has been proved that anyone who rejects peace is in actual fact calling for war. The crimes are still continuing against the Palestinian people, not to mention that the uprising alone has claimed 1,100 martyrs and 850,000 wounded.

'Arafat wondered about the position of the Arab countries, especially towards the emigration of Sovict Jews to Palestine. He called for an extraordinary Arab summit to face up to the challenges to the Arab nation [words indistinct].

President 'Arafat replied to Sharon's scheme for settling the Palestinian people in Jordan by saying that Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinian Arab people, and will remain so, with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat wondered about the U.S. position and its credibility. He said: Why was the problem of Namibia solved and the U.S. Secretary of State [word indistinct] in finding a solution to the issue of the Palestinian people?

In conclusion, the Palestinian president promised a victory, which will come soon in spite of the enemy's idea that it is still distant.

Calls for Intifadah's 'Second Stage'

JN3003203890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Mar 90

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Addressing the Palestinians, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said: Cling to the land. Die on this land, because it is an Arab territory.

'Arafat, speaking today at a Land Day rally in the Tunisian capital reviewed the situation in the intifadah in the occupied territories, and called for moving to the second stage, because Israeli officials reject peace. However, he did not explain what he meant by moving to the second stage of the intifadah.

'Arafat renewed his call for holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss what he described as the challenges facing Iraq, Libya, and the Arab nation. 'Arafat concluded by saying: There are threats against Iraq, and this is unacceptable. What is the Arab nation doing? Nothing. What did it do when the Libyan al-Rabitah plant was struck? Also nothing.

National Salvation Front Sponsors Land Day Rally

JN3003184490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Ahmad Jibril said the following at a rally on Land Day: We have a basic demand, the resignation of 'Arafat and his high-handed command within the PLO. There is a deep-rooted hatred against our Arab nation because it upheld the banner of peace and freedom for seven centuries. Our people and nation are faring well, and the intifadah exists. We all form the national eastern front. Carter says that 'Arafat accepted Baker's initiative, which is worse than Camp David.

This came at a speech rally held by the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] on Land Day under the auspices of Ahmad Jibril, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], in the al-Nujum Cinema in al-Yarmuk Camp at 1500 on Friday 30 March.

The rally was attended by PFLP-GC Assistant Secretary General Talal Naji; Khalid al-Fahum, [former] Palestine National Council speaker; Rashid Akhtarini, Syrian Ba'th Party Regional Command member; Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the provisional command of Fatah-the Uprising; 'Isam al-Qadi; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party; and 'Isam al-Mahayiri, secretary general of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Emergency Command, the representative of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

The rally was also attended by representatives of Arab and Palestinian popular organizations and a large crowd of Syrian and Palestinian ctizens.

PLO Official on Israeli Stance, U.S. Proposal

JN3003120690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 25

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] What is your position now that the Israeli stance has stumbled on Baker's proposals? Will the situation continue as it is?

[Ahmad] I believe that the Israeli stance has become clearer after the dissolution of the coalition government and Shamir's collapse because of his intransigence toward the current settlement. The Likud Party tries to avoid making decisions that would lead to negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo, as stipulated by Baker's proposals. I believe that Israel seeks to gain more time to further blackmail the Arab position and even the U.S. position. All this is aimed at quelling the intifadah and saving Israel from its crisis, especially since the PLO has given everything, and after nothing has been left for it to offer. The ball is now in the U.S. court. The United States should explain its stand toward the peace process, and say whether the situation will continue as it is, and whether there are sincere intentions to reach a settlement of the cause. From the very beginning, the United States has volunteered to convey viewpoints to all parties. Therefore, the U.S. Administration knows full well that the PLO has said all that it wanted to say. It also knows that Israel is maneuvering, and that it will continue to do so if its maneuverings are not curbed. In light of this, I say that if the United States has a sincere desire to play the role of the mediator in the peace process, then it should prove this in practice. This is despite the fact that we are convinced that it is not a mediator because of its bias toward Israel. Consequently, the U.S. mediation is only an attempt to blackmail the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, and to force them to accept conditions that can at least be described as capitulation, and not peace conditions, on

the pretext that Israel cannot give more than this. This is despite the fact that the United States is the one that makes the decisions in Israel, and not as it says and claims.

[Abu-Husayn] You have a dialogue with the U.S. Administration; why don't you discuss all these issues frankly during the dialogue? And how far can this dialogue serve the settlement?

[Ahmad] Regrettably, the United States wanted the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue to be a comedy, and to put us in a vicious circle after it voided the dialogue of its essence from the beginning when it was—and still is—proceeding slowly, very slowly. Instead of upgrading the dialogue, the United States has stopped it at this level, and begun to deal with us through a mediator, which is fraternal Egypt, which sends us letters and receives our replies to them. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] If the matter is so, and if that is how you frankly think of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, what is this dialogue expected to achieve?

[Ahmad] The U.S. Administration is not serious in its dialogue with us. It is trying to gain time to the advantage of Israel. All the current terms for a settlement, as we see them, strictly mean that we the Palestinians should give in to everything Israel wants. I also believe that the time for a historic deal has not yet come. There is still a long way to go before a settlement is achieved. There should be an Arab move that must begin by responding to the U.S. plan. Let the Arab response proceed from the Fes 1982 and recent Casablanca summit resolutions. Let the Arabs speak within the context of the peace program that they have drawn up, so as to make the U.S. Administration advance toward this program. As yet, the United States has not considered any of its articles. Today, I believe it is high time that the Arabs played their part, at least, to prevent the U.S.-Israeli extortion, through which Israel began to warn of an aggression against Jordan in order to incite differences anew between us and our brothers in Jordan and to export the current crisis in Israel to the Arab region.

Without a strong Arab position, Israel will not accept the idea of land in exchange for peace, but will continue to maintain the concept of peace for peace only.

[Abu-Husayn] Through statements made by its officials, the United States has more than once voiced the serious desire to secure a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that will precede the tripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel. What was the United States aiming at through these statements, especially since the dialogue did not take place?

[Ahmad] Egypt's position, within this whole scenario started by the U.S. Administration, is a demonstration of Egypt's goodwill and earnest desire for peace and settlement. This is unquestionable. However, the question is what the Israeli and U.S. representatives' positions would have been. I believe the Israelis would have considered this as tactics and procrastination in order to gain time and dictate conditions to the Arab states. Therefore, we the Palestinians and Arabs should act to prevent this trick and to expose its objectives which aim to dictate further Israeli conditions, because Israel's intentions are part of its aggressive, racist, and colonialist existence. Therefore, once again, new means of pressure must be employed so as to seriously move toward the genuine peace that we, Egypt, and all the Arabs seek. [passage omitted]

PNC's Sha'th: 'World Is Ready To Listen'

PM2903111990 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Mar 90 p 3

[Unattributed report on interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to "Palestinian president" Yasir 'Arafat; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Before the recent developments which blew away the Zionist entity's government, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, made a visit to the United States during which he participated with a number of world thinkers in a dialogue over the peace issue, and the Palestinian question in particular. [passage omitted]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th started his interview with 'UKAZ by saying: I can say that the debates held at that conference revealed some developments which can be summed up as follows: With regard to the U.S. government, there is pressure in favor of reactivating the tripartite meeting, which would then lead to a bilateral meeting. But that pressure has so far produced nothing significant. Actually the reason for that is that the United States is completely preoccupied with other priorities, first and foremost the changes taking place in East Europe and the detente between the two pivots in the context of these changes. We may imagine that that is an important part of U.S. thinking, but it also gives the impression that the Soviet, European, and Arab preoccupation with the Lebanese issue and related issues makes it difficult to exert sufficient pressure on the United States in order to get it to give the Palestinian issue the priority it deserves. That view was shared by all participants, including the U.S. Jewish community, which is experiencing radical changes. The community met with Baker and asked him to put pressure on Shamir to prevent him from settling Soviet emigrants in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. The community also announced its rejection of Shamir's statement on Greater Israel. A recent poll involving some 1,000 U.S. Jewish leaders showed that 73 percent of them favor negotiation between Israel and the PLO and see that, if the conditions necessary for guaranteeing the future are secured, an independent Palestinian state can be accepted as a solution representing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sha'th told 'UKAZ: So I can say that moves within U.S. Jewry as well as moves in the world and inside Israel itself are ahead of official U.S. moves to boost the

peace process and seek progress toward serious dialogue and negotiations with the PLO on the issue of a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sha'th says that some of those who defend the U.S. government say that it is now hinting at exerting real pressure on Israel.

As for the Palestinian position, the chairman of the Palestine National Council Political Committee said: Obviously the Palestinian position is clear, and the official U.S. position accords with the Palestinian position on the need for the PLO to represent those on the inside, the diaspora, and Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation; but it is still difficult to predict whether all that can produce a tripartite meeting leading to a bilateral Palestinian-Israeli meeting, or to determine a date for that meeting.

Dr. Sha'th said that we need to form a seven-man committee—the Palestine committee recommended by the Rabat summit. There are two committees now in Tunis dealing with Soviet Jewish emigration, one for the Soviet Union and another for the United States. And with regard to the emigration issue, which is a very serious subject, its dangers to the Arab nation as a whole must not be played down.

These committees must make a move, but they need real backing. I greatly appreciate the role which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played at the al-Ta'if conference in a sincere attempt to Arabize the Lebanese issue and avert the danger of internationalizing and Judaizing it. The al-Ta'if conference was held in a serious and sincere attempt to resolve the Lebanese problem. We need the same effort at least, and fortunately there are no internal divisions among Palestinians, nor do we have an internal problem in confronting the enemy. The United States and the Soviet Union are actually ready to listen seriously to the Arab view, especially if it comes from the major pivots in the region. We must use that. We are not asking anyone to get involved in any military battle. It is enough that the Palestinian people are struggling via the intifadah. They need Arab backing. If that backing is provided, the intifadah will be able to continue. Political backing and moves are needed, and the world is ready to listen. [passage omitted]

'Abbas on U.S. Dialogue, Foreign Relations

JN2803171190 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Mar (PETRA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas has said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are moving in a straight line that is notable for its clarity, frankness, and the common desire to coordinate and cooperate. They have had no difference of opinion on points concerning their destiny.

He added, in an interview with the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, that we in the PLO and Jordan believe that we need more cooperation and coordination to confront developments and events sweeping the world, whether they are events in East Europe, Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, the Palestinian peace process, or current events inside Israel, in addition to the Arab situation in general. He added that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are part of joint action and coordination and have no other dimension.

Asked about the nature of Jordanian-Palestinian joint coordination in the next stage, especially on holding an Arab summit, he said that there have been calls for an Arab summit, as is known, to discuss the Lebanon question only. I believe that Jordan and the PLO are the parties most interested in this summit. The summit, however, cannot be devoted to Lebanon alone. Two main topics have been proposed for its agenda, which are Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories and support for the blessed intifadah and the peace process in the region.

He said that these subjects require a great deal of coordination between Jordan and the PLO to clarify the course of the summit and how to take sound resolutions concerning the subjects to be discussed, especially since we, the two parties, are directly concerned.

Regarding the peace process in light of current international developments and the events inside Israel, he said that the fall of Shamir's government was the result of differences in Israeli opinion concerning the question of peace, especially differences among the parties. We are observing and watching the subject of the formation of the new Israeli government closely.

He adds: What we want to see now is that a government takes over in Israel that believes in a just and true peace and agrees to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in preparation for convening the international conference to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the problem.

He said: On the possibility that the Labor Party will form the new government, the Labor Party has 60 votes now, and is holding discussions with the other religious parties to secure one more vote, which would then qualify it to form the government. Its task is not simple, because of complications within the religious parties. Nevertheless, I can safely say that Peres' chances in succeeding are very good.

Answering a question on the relationship between the PLO and Egypt, he said that coordination with Egypt has not ended. During his last visit to Cairo, he reviewed their common political position and it became clear that there were no differences between the two sides on all details and various topics.

He also noted that the PLO was one of the first to bless moves to transfer the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo, which was the result of Arab consensus. Answering a question on the relationship between the PLO and Syria, he explained the importance of the recent meeting between state of Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'

during which they discussed various Arab and international issues and developments.

He said there might be greater detente in future Palestinian-Syrian relations.

He explained that the Palestine National Council will be convened on time, and that it will form a new council. He said a committee has been formed to choose the PNC members. The committee comprises the Council's Presidency, the Executive Committee, and the Council's Secretariat. When this committee has completed its tasks, a date for convening the council—which will be some time before the end of the current year—will be announced, 'Abbas added.

When asked about Israeli leaders' statements to the effect that they will establish Greater Israel, he said: This kind of talk is not new. The slogan of an Israel extending from the Euphrates to the Nile is now being discussed in a concrete and realistic way. For example, this slogan has been printed on the Israeli 10 agora note. The slogan includes Israel's new map, which comprises Palestine, Jordan, two-thirds of Sinai, a large part of Lebanon, one-third of Syria, a large part of Saudi Arabia, and a large part of Iraq extending to the latter's borders with Iran.

Regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, he said the dialogue is still going on; however, it is proceeding slowly. The dialogue takes two forms: one is direct, which is taking place in Tunisia; the other is through Egyptian diplomacy.

'Abbas expressed regret over the contradictory U.S. position. He said we were happy with the statement President Bush made a while ago that Jerusalem is an occupied territory. However, we were disappointed with the Senate's recent decision to consider Jerusalem as part of Israel. This is out of keeping with international resolutions, which stipulate that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Regarding the U.S. position on the peace process, 'Abbas said: We believe that the United States wants the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue to continue and peace to be established. We feel, however, that movement is slow and there is no pressure on Israel to make it change its policy.

He added that the blessed intifadah in the occupied territories will not stop, and that it will continue to struggle until it attains its objectives, primarily, the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory. Despite all the difficulties and obstacles created by the Israeli authorities, the Palestinian peace offensive will continue because it is the only way to secure a just, comprehensive peace in the region, 'Aabbas maintained.

He also added that the emigration of Soviet Jews will increase Israel's aggressive tendency to absorb Palestinian territories, and will constitute a real danger to neighboring Arab countries. He noted that the PLO took a position against the emigration because it hinders peace efforts. Moreover, the PLO has asked the Soviet Union to abolish the 1967 law that revokes the Soviet nationality of emigrants. We have also asked for the cancellation of direct air links between the Soviet Union and Israel—to which the Soviet authorities have responded. We also called on West European countries and the United States to respect human rights in full, and that they should not view human rights as the exclusive preserve of Jewish emigrants, 'Abbas added.

Concluding his statement, 'Abbas said: We demand that the United States take an overall view of human rights by allowing the Jews to choose their country of destination, to respect the Palestinian people's right to return to their country, and to adopt an unbiased position on international law.

'Arafat Political Adviser Calls for Arab Front

JN3003085590 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 29

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has called for establishing an Arab front to work toward a dialogue with the United States.

While voicing his belief that the Palestinians have no power to decide the issue either military or politically, Al-Hasan, who is a member of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee, noted that such a front would not mean canceling the Palestinian character or preventing the PLO from representing the Palestinian people. He said his call is intended to make the United States understand that it is facing a united Arab front, and that any conflict with the interests of one means a conflict with the interests of all.

Al-Hasan expressed optimism at the coming phase, the developing Arab conditions, and the Arab realization that Jewish emigration to Palestine constitutes a danger to all the Arabs. The Palestinian official said that the West will continue to need Arab oil, at least for the next 25 years, and that this gives the Arabs a strong position.

Al-Hasan revealed that the PLO has decided to move to another phase in its ties with Syria, especially following the preliminary meetings that took place between the Palestinian president and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Al-Hasan said that this PLO decision is designed to create an eastern front, and added that it will not be necessary for this front to declare war on Israel. The front, he said, will mean pressure on the Israeli occupation, adding that when a Jewish rabbi declares that preserving Jewish blood takes priority over scriptural instructions, this means that he is afraid of the Iraqi missiles that are capable of hitting Israel.

Responding to a question on whether the PLO would abandon some of its demands so as to normalize ties with Syria, al-Hasan said: One side cannot hold a dialogue with another if cadres from the first side are detained in the second side's jails. However, he voiced the opinion that Syria has already expressed its good intentions toward the PLO by it releasing some detainees.

Hani al-Hasan pointed out that the Middle East situation requires joint efforts, given the changes in the world, where some are rising and some are falling. He stressed the need for the Arabs to be among those who are rising. He said the most important thing now is to stop Jewish emigration to Palestine, force the Israeli occupation forces to withdraw, and prevent the Israeli army from spreading to other Arab territories. He said the PLO is about to realize a qualitative leap in its ties with Syria.

Speaking on Palestinian-Egyptian ties, given the crisis in these ties over the past two weeks as reflected in the Egyptian press, al-Hasan noted the recent meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and President Yasir 'Arafat in Windhoek, Namibia. He said the meeting lasted more than two hours, during which all outstanding issues between the two sides were discussed. He emphasized that the crisis phase has ended, and the noncrisis phase has begun. That is how I understand the dialogue, he said. This is prompted by the two sides' desire to overcome all obstacles to build Arab solidarity.

Referring to causes of the recent crisis with Egypt, 'Arafat's adviser said the PLO's position on the return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt was commensurate with the Tunisian viewpoint. He said the PLO had repeatedly emphasized that it would accept any understanding between Tunisia and Egypt in this regard. This is because of the PLO's loyalty to the president, people, and Government of Tunisia, "a country that welcomed and protected us and was exposed to Israeli Air Force attacks because of us."

Al-Hasan said he expects Egyptian-Palestinian relations to grow, stressing that the two sides will not allow any power to spoil these relations. He said such powers do not hold Egypt's interests at heart or serve Egyptian national aims. He pinned great hopes on the Egyptian people.

Al-Hasan expressed profound relief at recent developments in Jordan, especially the democratic transformations, which reflect the structure of the Jordanian forces and their political leanings, thus creating better national unity. Al-Hasan said the Palestinians should not interfere in the formation of Jordanian political parties, and avoid anything that might cause friction with Jordan.

On what some Israeli officials call the alternative homeland, al-Hasan said that by the alternative homeland, Israel does not mean giving Jordan to the PLO, but dividing Jordan among the Jordanians in the south, the Palestinians in the north, and the Israelis in al-Salt heights and the Jordan rift area. Israel regards itself as a partner in Jordan, he said.

Commenting on last Friday's U.S. Senate bill considering unified Jerusalem as Israel's capital, al-Hasan said the PLO was not surprised, because the battle between the Palestinians and Zionism is being fought all over the world. The PLO is fighting a battle in the Middle East against Jewish immigration, and is fighting in the West the battle of U.S. policy-making, in which the Zionist forces are playing an important, decisive role.

However, al-Hasan expressed the belief that U.S. President George Bush's declaration, in which he stated the position that east Jerusalem is an occupied area and cannot be settled in, is an indication that a new situation has been created whereby the U.S. President can voice an opinion that differs from that of the Zionist lobby. He said the coming days will show whether or not Bush can play a brave and capable role in what he described as a balanced formula to solve the Middle East issue.

Al-Hasan added that Bush, the Western European states, and Egypt, which conveys the Palestinian views to the U.S. Administration, realize that the Palestinians cannot offer any concessions over the issue of holy Jerusalem, because it is the capital of the Palestinians' state. Compromises over Jerusalem, he said, are completely out of the question, and postponing discussion on it is unthinkable, adding that "this is a Palestinian decision."

Al-Hasan emphasized that Jerusalem is not only a Palestinian issue but an Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue. He said UN Security Council Resolution No. 242, on which all the parties concerned agreed, covers all the territories occupied in 1967, headed by Jerusalem and the last grain of Jerusalem's soil. The resolution also stipulated that the Hula area on the Syrian border, also occupied in 1967, is also part of the territory of the Palestinian state.

Military Action To Halt Soviet Emigration Urged

LD3003133790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1001 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 30 (KUNA)—The Arab Committee for the support of the Palestinian uprising has said that backing the Palestinian uprising by outside military operations was the effective response to the emigration of the Soviet Jews to Palestine. The committee, affiliated to the graduate association, said in a statement marking the Palestinian Land Day, if Soviet Jews feel that unrest in Palestine would endanger their safety they would not think of leaving their original homeland. The committee affirmed that the resettling of the Soviet Jews would upset the demographic structure in Palestine in favour of Zionist enemy and as such calls for serious Arab and international reactions.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Soviet Emigration Measures

JN3003160890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Mar 90 p 29

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Excerpts] A Palestinian delegation will visit Moscow shortly to discuss with Soviet officials the issue of Soviet Jew's emigration to Palestine and their settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the intifadah committee, will head the Palestinian delegation. He will be accompanied by Mamduh Nawfal, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; and Taysir 'Aruri, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Communist Party.

The PLO hopes that its delegation's meetings with Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, will produce positive results. [passage omitted]

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said that all Arab states must support the Palestinian people to help them face the dangers of Jewish immigration. He added that a large increase in the population of Israel would encourage it to carry out expansionist operations against other Arab states. This, he said, would swell Israel's arrogance and belligerence. He referred to Israel's raids on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the PLO's Tunis headquarters as examples.

Hawatimah supported the call, made by Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis on 10 March, for holding an extraordinary Arab summit to deal with Jewish immigration. He expressed the belief that the PLO has a crucial role to play in making the international community aware of the need to link immigration to Palestinian human rights.

Hawatimah added that a collective awareness of the dangers of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their settlement in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem is bound to make the Arabs make a determined effort in this regard.

Hawatimah said that the PLO has informed Moscow of the need to link emigration to free choice. He said this would mean the end of direct emigration as well as emigration via intermediate transit stations, as the latter is also a form of direct immigration because it gives the emigrant only one option, which he must take. Hawatimah proposed that the Soviets transport emigrants to a third station and that they give them sufficient time to ponder the question before deciding on their final destination.

The DFLP secretary general, who visited Moscow recently, announced that the Kremlin is about to enact new legislation that would enable emigrants to carry passports valid for five years. He called for a dialogue at the UN Security Council to help pass international resolutions banning emigrants from settling in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. He added that Moscow is currently holding consultations with Washington to convince the latter to reopen its doors to Jewish immigration and to do away with the reduced "quota" system.

The Palestinian official described Moscow's measures in this regard as good but insufficient. He added that a proper and fair response would involve linking of emigration to a ban on settlement through the use of stringent international rulings, as he put it.

Paper Interviews PNC Speaker Al-Sa'ih

PM2803153690 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 24 Mar 90 p 5

[Interview with Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Mazin Bin-Hani in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Bin-Hani] Your Eminence, how would you assess the Egyptian role in the peace process?

[Al-Sa'ih] I believe that, as a fraternal state, Egypt is striving to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their aims and establish their Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the PLO—their sole legitimate representative. However, it is being exposed to pressures, but that does not mean that it wants to circumvent the PLO. In fact it confers with the PLO on any steps it wants to take.

[Bin-Hani] Will Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement enhance the peace process' chances of success in the region? And what has been achieved concerning Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation?

[Al-Sa'ih] We welcome and support any agreement between any two Arab states, because the Palestinian cause needs the backing of all Arabs. So we welcome that rapprochement and hope that it will lead to a Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement that will preserve the Palestinian cause's known image and resolutions adopted by its national councils. And we hope that the existing opportunities will be conducive to a complete understanding between us and sister Syria.

[Bin-Hani] What have U.S.-Palestinian contacts and talks achieved? Has any progress been made in that regard? Will a meeting be held between senior PLO officials and U.S. officials in the future?

[Al-Sa'ih] So far U.S.-Palestinian contacts have not achieved the desired result, and we are ready to meet with the United States at higher levels once it recognizes the PLO as a legitimate representative.

[Bin-Hani] What is the effect of the dramatic changes in the Eastern bloc on the Palestinian issue, especially since some Eastern [European] states have restored diplomatic

relations with Israel and the Soviet Union has allowed Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine?

[Al-Sa'ih] Undoubtedly what has taken place in the socialist states prompts all the Arab states to pay attention to its results and potential impact on the Arab situation in general and on our Palestinian cause in particular. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly Moscow's permission for Soviet Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine affects our cause and is not in our interests. We hope the Soviet Union will acknowledge this and work to take measures to prevent the friendly Palestinian people and their interests from being harmed. Contacts between us and them are continuing over that and other issues. [passage omitted]

[Bin-Hani] How true are recent media reports that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat proposed to King Husayn of Jordan that he submit the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation idea to the Jordanian parliament?

[Al-Sa'ih] I doubt the truth of these reports, because the confederation issue has not just been decided: In fact the confederation idea was originally decided at the Palestine National Council and there is no disagreement on it. But a confederation takes place between two independent states. Jordan is an independent state on its own territory, whereas the Palestinian state—even though has been proclaimed—has still not exercised its sovereignty over its territory. When that happens the two peoples can be consulted to seek their approval of the confederation issue. [passage omitted]

Occupied Territories Figures Invited to Meeting

JN3003153490 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 30 (GNA)—The Palestinian leadership has invited a number of prominent Palestinian personalities living in the occupied territories to attend an expanded meeting to evaluate the current situation in the occupied territories, the PLO future political move and its impact on the Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories, United Arab Emirates 'AL-ITTIHAD' newspaper reported tody.

The Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, quoting informed Palestinian sources in Tunis said the leadership decided to hold this meeting urgently in one of Arab capitals to lay down a common strategy for the organisation's future action.

It added that the subject of Eastern European and Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied territories would be high on the meeting agenda.

Palestinian Press Service Resumes Operation

NC2803115890 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Jerusalem, March 28 (AFP) - The Palestinian Press Service resumed operation Wednesday after a two-year ban imposed by Israeli authorities, the agency said. The PPS, based in east Jerusalem, was shut down for six months in March 1988 on charges that it had received funds from the outlawed Palestine Liberation Organization. The six-month ban had been successively renewed until this month.

"The Israeli authorities did not renew the closure, which allows us to resume our work," a PPS official told Agence France-Presse.

The original closure order came three months after the outbreak of an anti-Israeli Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Chief Interviewed on Reopening

JN2803142590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Interview with Raymonda al-Tawil, founder of the Palestine Press Service in Jerusalem, by Kamal Kamil in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Kamil] We learned today that the Palestine Press Service [Maktab al-I'lam al-Filastini—PPS] office in Jerusalem was reopened. Is this news final?

[Al-Tawil] Yes, of course. The decision was made today, two years after the Israeli authorities' decision to close down the Palestine Press Service office in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, this decision is very important, especially following after the decisions recently to open institutions in the West Bank, universities and schools. I believe that this decision is related to the political situation, political changes, and political pressure from Europe, and especially from the United States.

[Kamil] What is noteworthy here is that the decision to allow the office's reopening was issued by the Yitzhaq Shamir government, especially if you are seen as part of the PLO. Was this decision made only due to international pressures, or could it be considered a gesture from the Yitzhaq Shamir government toward the Palestinians?

[Al-Tawil] In fact, I believe that there is world and American pressure on Shamir's government. In other words, this decision is not specific to the Palestinian office, but also the institutions in the occupied territories. Of course, there is competition between Shamir and Labor, before Labor takes over or before there are any changes in the government. However, I believe that regardless of the government, international changes are forcing it to yield. We should not also forget that the struggles of the Palestinian people and the stone-throwing children have all contributed toward

opening the institutions and universities. Our institution is an institution for the masses and will continue to be theirs. [passage omitted]

Hamas Issues Statement on Ramadan Observances

JN2703205290 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today issued Statement No. 55 on the occasion of the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan. The statement called on the masses of our Palestinian people to observe the sanctity of the month of Ramadan [27 March-27 April] and consider it a month of continuous and distinguished jihad against the Zionist enemy. It also called for closing the internal front's ranks as this is the first step toward victory. It also called for the following activites:

27 March will be a day of distinguished escalation on the anniversary of the Jewish attack on the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque last year.

30 March will be a day of general strike on the occasion of Land Day.

Hamas calls on our brothers in Janin to defy the night curfew which has been enforced for months and to go out for Ramadan prayers and worship.

All other days of Ramadan should be considered occasions to prepare ambushes, write on walls, and hoist Palestinan flags.

12 March, the anniversary of the Badr battle, will be a day of distinguished escalation on which marches will be staged to commemorate the Movement's martyrs on this occasion last year.

8 April, the anniversary marking the martyrdom of hero 'Abd-al- Qadir al-Husayni in the al-Qastal battle, will be a day to destroy, burn, and overturn enemy cars and installations.

9 April 1990 will be a day of general strike marking the beginning of the 28th month of the intifadah and in commemoration of our people who were martyred in the Dayr Yasin massacre.

17 April 1990, corresponding to 22 Ramadan, will be the day of the prisoner. On this day, visits will be made to the prisoners' families and gifts will be presented to their children and aid to their relatives.

20 April 1990 will be a day of general strike in protest against the enemy's continued closure of the national universities.

On the night of 22 April, the night in which the Koran was revealed, people will flock to al-Aqsa Mosque for prayers and Koranic recitals.

24 April will be a day on which shops will open until 1800 to enable Muslims to prepare for 'Id al-Fitr.

On 28 April, the day of the feast, Muslims—young and elderly, men and women—will go out for prayers. People will then visit the martyrs' tombs in processions. Speeches commemorating them and calling for following their steps will be delivered. Visits will then be paid to the families of martyrs, prisoners, and wounded.

Algeria

Postponed Elections To Take Place in June

LD0104195290 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] In Algeria the first pluralist elections since independence will take place on 12 June.

Today we learned about the defection, that of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] of former President Ahmed Ben Bella, who is still in exile. The MDA will thus not take part in the poll.

[Claire Arsenault-Leers]: We shall not take part in the municipal and provincial elections on 12 June. This was the irrevocable statement which came from the MDA, whose founder, former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, today still lives in exile in Switzerland.

According to the secretary general of the MDA, Mr. (Jamal Guemane), this is justified because the date of the poll was set by the single party in power, the FLN [National Liberation Front] and it does not give equal meaning to the 23 political parties which are today authorized in Algeria. But still, according to the MDA, above all one should not draw a parallel between this boycott decision and a possible return to the country by Ahmad Ben Bella, a return which, according to various rumors, might take place at the end of Ramadan.

Still on the subject of the poll on 12 June, which will be the first pluralist consultation in Algeria, at least 11 political parties have decided to ask for it to be postponed. However, for the moment only the MDA has said that it will not take part in the election, which in December was already put off once for six months, the maximum delay authorized by the law, as was recalled by the minister of the interior.

Socialist Party Urges Election Postponement

LD0204141390

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic at 1225 GMT on 2 April broadcasts an 11 minute program featuring the platform of the Socialist Vanguard Party in which an unidentified representative of the party talks about the significance of the forthcoming elections and the choices open to the electorate. The party wants the elections postponed for a few months so that opposition parties can prepare for them, he says. The Socialist Vanguard Party wants to help victims of recent earthquakes, resolve the housing problem, resolve youth unemployment, and combat the distribution of drugs. The party believes that the forthcoming elections must not be turned into a conflict for power but an opportunity to resolve the pressing problems which the country is facing, he asserts.

Opposition Party Calls for Assembly Dissolution

LD0204174390 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Oran, 2 Apr (APS)—In a statement issued yesterday marking the first anniversary of its birth, the Popular Unity Party called on all opposition parties "to declare the present regime with its old men as incapable of eliminating the suffering of the Algerian people, and consequently to dissolve the National People's Assembly so as to ensure the representation of all political currents."

In the statement, a copy of which was handed to the APS bureau, the party also called for the release of martyr (?bouyali) companions, considering them as political prisoners. It also supported the return of Ben Bella and the closure of his file, and called upon Hamrouche's government to genuinely embrace democracy and remove the obstacles facing the political parties.

Islamic Movement of Algerian Youth Founded

LD0104153690 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 1 April—The birth of a national religious movement called the Islamic Movement of Algerian Youth [al-harakah al-islamiyah li al-shabab al-jaza'iri] has been announced in Algiers. According to its statement the movement, whose headquarters are situated temporarily at (al-Sayyidah al-Afriqiyyah) Street in (Bulughin), aims to propagate and protect true Islam, to combat deviation, atheism and immorality, and to facilitate brotherly ties among all Muslims. [passage omitted]

JEUNE INDEPENDANT Launches 1st Issue

LD2903142990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpt] More news about Algeria. Our hats off to some young colleagues who have organized themselves into a cooperative and have just launched the first issue of the JEUNE INDEPENDANT, which is a weekly that costs five dinars with a print-run of 100,000 copies. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Appoints New Al-Minya Governor

NC0204191090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a presidential decree this afternoon appointing Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi as governor of al-Minya. The new governor will be sworn in before the president tomorrow, Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi was formerly assistant interior minister.

Paper on U.S. Senate Decision on Jerusalem

NC0304081890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0712 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has questioned the stand toward the peace process of the U.S. senators who conceded that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. It asks whether these senators place the interests of Israel above those of the United States itself and whether they realize the effect of this resolution on the friends of the United States in the Middle East.

In its editorial today, the paper emphasizes that the U.S. senators have done a great service to the Israeli anti-peace forces with the resolution recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital.

The paper notes that these questions may not be answered by the American senators who turned a deaf ear to the Arab voice and contented themselves with uttering pro-Israeli cheers and defending Israel's interests, even at the expense of the United States itself.

Consultative Council on Decision

NC0204134090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Consultative Council today denounced the decision passed by the U.S. Senate on 22 March, saying that it conflicts with the legal status of East Jerusalem as part of the Arab occupied territories. The Council stated that the Senate's decision will have negative effects on the peace efforts, which have the blessing of the United States and all peace-loving nations. The decision also violates the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Consultative Council issued a statement denouncing any unilateral attempt to change the legal status of occupied East Jerusalem, on the grounds that any such action would conflict with the simplest norms of international law. The Council also stated that East Jerusalem is an integral part of the Arab West Bank territories which have been under Israeli occupation since 1967, and declared that the Palestinians have legitimate and historical rights in that city.

The Council recalled that U.S. presidents and senior officials have previously expressed opposition to any changes made by Israel to Jerusalem's status, taking the view that it forms part of the occupied territories in which the appropriate international laws are applicable.

Council Discusses Arms Industry, Arab Solidarity

NC0304054490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—The Consultative Council held a session under Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi this evening and continued its discussion of the draft report submitted by the Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee on the subject of the Arab Cooperation Council and the prospects for joint Arab action.

During the discussions, council members called for formulating a program for the development of the Arab citizen and for giving attention to the Arab arms industry "because he who does not possess his own weapons cannot make his own decisions."

During the discussions, emphasis was placed on the importance of bolstering the various Arab unions within the framework of the Arab League so that the Arabs will be able to confront the unified European entity represented by the European Common Market.

The discussions also emphasized the importance of self-reliance because he who cannot rely on himself will have no place in tomorrow's world. The discussions also called for international control of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

During the discussions, the members called for consolidating Arab solidarity as the only way to defend our pan-Arab interests. Within this context, the members stressed the need to achieve reconciliation between Syria and Iraq in preparation for Syria's accession to the Arab Cooperation Council so as to boost Arab strength and unity. During the discussions, the members called for cohesiveness among existing Arab unions, the return of Arab funds invested abroad, and the establishment of a unified Arab bank to implement projects that benefit the entire Arab nation.

The session was then adjourned to reconvene at 1200 tomorrow, Tuesday.

Al-Sharif Reports on Cabinet Meeting

NC0204160690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] A cabinet meeting chaired by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak took place at the presidential offices today. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, and ministers were in attendance.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the al-Minya and Abu Qurqas incidents, which were designed to harm national unity, formed the main topic that the president discussed with the cabinet. He added that President Mubarak reviewed ways in which local government and security forces officials can deal with such indidents. He emphasized the responsibility that the governors and political institutions, represented by the majority and opposition parties, bear in dealing with this issue. The president also noted the responsibility of religious scholars and the clergy to hold meetings and conduct a dialogue in order to prevent such incidents.

The information minister said that during the three-hour meeting President Mubarak stressed the importance of

dealing promptly with any attempts to defy the legitimate authorities or attack houses of worship and individuals. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that, in connection with the economy, the president and the ministers concerned also discussed inter-Arab economic relations in light of the agreements that have been concluded and the activities of the joint committees with sister states. The president also reviewed the issue of cooperation with Libya in all spheres within the framework of the agreements made at Marsa Matruh and Tubruq. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Returns From Sanaa, Makes Statement

NC2703074090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the delegation accompanying him have returned to Cairo from Sanaa after a three-day official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR]. During the visit, Sidqi conveyed a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also headed the Egyptian side in the meetings of the higher Egyptian-YAR joint committee which the Egyptian and Yemeni prime minister cochaired.

In an arrival statement, Sidqi said a number of agreements for economic, tourist, and administrative development cooperation between the two countries had been signed. Understanding was reached on several key issues relating to marine transport and aviation, as well as on a draft bill for educational cooperation, he added.

Sanaa Talks Detailed

JN2803212390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 90 pp 1, 12

[By Sabri Suwaylim in Sanaa]

[Excerpts] The joint higher Egyptian-Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Committee concluded its meetings yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and YAR Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani by signing five new cooperation agreements in the fields of trade exchange, economy, administrative development, civil service, and police affairs. The two sides decided to continue consideration of an agreement on touristic cooperation and two protocols on media and cultural cooperation so that they can soon be signed. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Ihab Wahbah, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry and member of the Egyptian delegation to the joint committee meetings, has said that the bilateral trade agreement stipulates that each side will accord preferential treatment to the commodities produced by the other side. Also, the YAR side approved the establishment of a permanent Egyptian trade center in Sanaa. The two sides also agreed to expedite a meeting of technical experts from the two countries to finalize the documents on the establishment of an Egyptian-YAR holding company for investment and development. An Egyptian delegation will soon arrive in Sanaa for this purpose.

Wahbah added that a meeting was held between the head of the Executive Investment Body and the members of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce. He said the two sides discussed ways to effect investment cooperation, especially between the private sectors of the two countries.

With regard to the security agreement, this provides for an exchange of criminals, combating drugs, and also for training YAR nationals at the Egyptian Police Academy.

As for cooperation in the industrial field, the YAR economy and trade minister extended invitations to the Egyptian industry minister and the head of the Egyptian Industrialization Organization to visit Sanaa during the next two months to discuss with YAR officials industrial integration between the two countries and the establishment of joint industrial projects.

The YAR side also requested that YAR nationals be given training courses at specialized institutes and centers in Egypt. The Egyptian side responded favorably to this request. It has been decided to establish joint industries involving the use of scrap metal in the YAR.

In the field of petroleum, the YAR side expressed interest in using Egyptian expertise in this field. The possibility of launching a joint company in oil, gas drilling, and mineral mining will be discussed. Egypt expressed readiness to participate in oil prospecting in the YAR and to implement oil projects there.

In the area of electricity, it was decided that Egypt will implement the electricity project in the earthquake-hit areas in Dhamar. The two sides also agreed to develop cooperation in generating and distributing electricity and also in training YAR technical cadres. Furthermore, the two sides agreed that the YAR will use Egyptian-made electrical industry products.

The YAR side was interested in YAR nationals attend training courses in land and marine transport and also in YAR engineers and technicians receiving training in building bridges in Egypt.

In the field of education, the educational protocol signed by the two countries was amended to allow for an increase in the number of YAR students studying at Egyptian universities and also for an increase in the number of scholarships granted to YAR students.

In the field of awqaf and religious guidance, the committee expressed satisfaction with the strong bilateral cooperation in this regard. The YAR side also expressed appreciation of the role being played by the al-Azhar mission in the YAR.

DPRK Vice President Arrives in Cairo

NC0104120190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0858 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok arrived in Cairo this morning on an official three-day visit to Egypt during which he will deliver a message to President Husni Mubarak from DPRK President Kim Il-song. The DRPK official will meet with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rifa't al-Mahjub later today.

The DPRK Vice President will hold talks tomorrow with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on a number of international topics of mutual interest. They will also discuss the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The DPRK vice president was met at Cairo airport by Ambassador al-Shafi'i Makki, head of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Department, and the members of the DPRK Embassy in Cairo.

Delivers Message From Kim Il-song

NC0104144090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1326 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from DPRK President Kim Il-song. It was delivered by Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Worker's Party Political Bureau, during his meeting with the president today.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the DPRK deputy foreign minister, and DPRK Ambassador in Cairo Kim Ziong-spa [name as received] also attended the meeting.

Confers With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC020' 13290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—Today Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and member of the Korean Worker's Party Political Bureau. During the meeting the two officials discussed ways to promote bilateral ties in all areas as well as issues of common concern and current international developments.

Ends Visit; Leaves for Addis Ababa

NC0304091290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok left Cairo for Addis Ababa at dawn today at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt, during which conveyed a written message from Korean President Kim Il-song to President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Hasan Makki, director of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, and the DPRK ambassador in Cairo.

During his stay in Cairo, the Korean official met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to discuss current international issues.

Gambian, Guinean Officials Arrive 29 Mar

NC3003060890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2321 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 (MENA)—Gambian Foreign Minister Omar Sey and Guinean Youth Minister Zunu Niji [name and title as received] arrived here this evening on a three-day visit to Cairo. In an arrival statement, the two ministers said they are carrying personal messages from Gambian President Dawda Jawara and Guinean President Lansana Conte to President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman.

Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr, assistant foreign minister, and Ambassador Muhammad al-Shulqami, deputy director of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry, met the two ministers at the airport.

Meet With Mubarak

NC3103194490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the Gambian foreign minister and the Guinean youth minister who have come to Cairo to submit a report to him, in his capacity as OAU chairman, on the efforts to resolve the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

The Gambian and Guinean presidents have visited the Mauritanian and Senegalese capitals in a bid to find a solution for the conflict between the two countries.

Banks' Foreign Currency Revenues Detailed

JN3003082790 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 6

[By Faraj Abu-al-'Izz]

[Excerpt] The overall revenues of the free banking market for foreign currencies have amounted to $9 billion. These revenues have been used to open import credits for the private sector worth $5.6 billion, or 60 percent of the revenues, and to open import credits for the public sector worth $3.8 billion, or 40 percent of the revenues. This has been disclosed by Shukri Tawfiq, controller general of the free banking market for foreign currencies.

He said the current dollar rate is 264 piasters in banks piasters and 270 piasters outside banks, with a difference of 6 piasters, or 2.3 percent difference, a percentage that does make the risk of dealing in the black market desirable.

He affirmed that it is not feared that speculations might affect the dollar prices because prices depend on the banking market's ability to cover demand for the dollar. He said the banking market's role is being expanded in order to curtail dollar dealings outside the banking market. He said this issue is being discussed with Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid and Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa.

He added that the remittances of Egyptians working abroad are a major source of revenue for the banking market, but this source is not everything, since there are also tourism and export revenues. He said a slight drop in these remittances will not affect the banking market's revenues. He attributed this drop to causes not related to the banking market, the exchange rate, or economic policy, but to the reduction of Egyptian labor abroad and decreased wages. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Talhi Reviews Ties With Egypt, Chad, U.S.

PM3003092290 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Mar 90 pp 35-36

[Interview with Secretary of the People's Bureau of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAWADITH] There have recently been numerous telephone contacts between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and the colonel visited Aswan, southern Sinai, and the Red Sea. What point have Egyptian-Libyan relations reached following the period of summit contacts?

[Al-Talhi] I can say that relations between the two countries reflect the strong bond and ties linking the Arab people in the two countries. They are proceeding in accordance with what was agreed at the meetings between the brother leader and President Husni Mubarak in Casablanca, Marsa Matruh, Tubruq, Surt, and recently in Aswan, where it was agreed to increase solidarity and strengthen ties between the two countries in various fields. I believe that what was annouced is being implemented enthusiastically and the effects are discernible to everyone—for instance in freedom of movement for the citizens of both countries, the exchange of goods, and easy and intensive contacts.

[AL-HAWADITH] Many observers are still interested in the question whether there will be a Libyan embassy in Cairo. What has been agreed between the two countries on that point?

[Al-Talhi] That question has been asked more than once and the brother leader clearly answered it when he said that relations and links between the two countries have certainly transcended that symbol, which denotes the existence of two separate entities. At any rate, since the Tubruq meeting it has been agreed to open offices for the two countries. The bond between the two countries makes the embassy issue less important than some people believe. Furthermore, in this day and age the world has become like a small village because of the communications revolution, and having embassies is no longer as important in shaping relations between any two countries. It is even less important for Egypt and Libya because of their geographical and historical ties.

[AL-HAWADITH] Despite the Libyan initiative on Chad, relations between the two countries are not as expected. What is the real situation between Libya and Chad?

[Al-Talhi] Ever since the initiative announced by the brother leader on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OAU providing for Chad's recognition, the exchange of diplomtic representation, the release of prisoners of war, the desire for cooperation and good-neighbor relations, and a commitment to the peaceful settlement of any dispute between the two countries, Libya has confirmed this repeatedly and put it into practice. What I want to say is that this is Libya's firm position and I believe we have demonstrated it with practical steps such as the restoration of relations with Chad, the exchange of diplomatic missions, the release of Chadian prisoners of war, and the signing of an agreement on settling the dispute between the two countries. Undoubtedly implementation of the agreement still faces difficulties, but we are committed to its impelementation.

[AL-HAWADITH] Which of the two sides is responsible for the difficulties preventing implementing the Algiers agreement?

[Al-Talhi] The Algiers agreement has indeed not been implemented, but I emphasize that the Libyan side is not responsible for that. I quite honestly believe that we are not responsible for the delay in implementing the agreement. I regret to say that no progress has been made regarding the implementation of any of the articles of the agreement on both countries' commitment to a peaceful solution, refraining from anything that might impede the creation of the right atmosphere for the establishment of good relations between the two countries, the conclusion of a good-neighbor agreement, and the formation of a joint committee to follow up efforts to improve relations between the two countries.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that Libya's ties with some Chadian opposition factions may be the reason for the obstruction of the Algiers agreement's implementation?

[Al-Talhi] I can say that since the brother leader's initiative on the 25th anniversary of the OAU, Libya has been trying hard to develop its relations with the brothers in Chad. It has also offered to help in the dialogue between the Chadian brothers to overcome whatever problems they may have. Libya will proceed along this road until, as I said, good and normal relations are established between the two countries.

[AL-HAWADITH] We know that Egypt is making efforts to improve the atmosphere between Libya and the United States. Have any positive results been achieved in this connection?

[Al-Talhi] I regret to say that there are no developments that could be described as positive. For our part, we have repeatedly expressed our willingness to end this present state of relations, but unfortunately the other side still maintains the same old position, as demonstrated by its confirmation of its decisions to impose sanctions against Libya and to ban travel to Libya. It continues to repeat old allegations. The U.S. position of wanting to impose certain policies on all the Arab states and to impose its hegemony has not changed. It views the matter from the angle of its own ideas and interests.

[AL-HAWADITH] The immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine is another Arab preoccupation. How do you view the dangers of such immigration?

[Al-Talhi] I say that this matter has assumed very serious dimensions. The large numbers that have been arriving have exceedeed what you could call mere immigration to the point of an attempt to settle immigrants at the expense of other people. We know that allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate was always a U.S. precondition for international detente and relaxation in the context of U.S.-Soviet relations. The U.S. aid to the Zionist entity, including the arms and funds supplied, makes the immigrants a military force and compounds the Zionist threat. The aim of last year's U.S. decision blocking the entry of emigrants into the United States was to force them to go to occupied Palestine. In its hostility to the Arabs, the United States has used every method including pressure on the Soviet Union to permit unlimited emigration. That is not to say that the Soviets do not bear some of the responsibility. The fact remains, however, that it was the United States which applied pressure, planned, and acted.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you not believe that, thanks to good relations with the Soviet Union, Libya could play a part in trying to check this new threat?

[Al-Talhi] Certainly, we are contacting all parties including the Arab brothers, because this is a major threat which explains and is in harmony with the Zionist objective of occupying Arab territory and threatening the Arabs' very existence.

[AL-HAWADITH] There has recently been a call for an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss this issue, but Libyan statements seem to suggest that Libya has some reservations about that. What is the truth?

[Al-Talhi] All I want to say is that any Arab meeting held to tackle the dangers threatening the Arab nation is a good thing, but we stress that the facts of the matter must be examined and treated accordingly. It is the United States that always enables the Zionist enemy to fulfill its ambitions in the Arab territories. The latest example is the conditions it set and the pressure it put on the Soviets to allow emigration, thus forcing the Jews to go to occupied Palestine and pose a threat to the Arab world through their settlement, absorption, and armament so as to escalate the threat to Arab existence.

[AL-HAWADITH] The question remains: Is Libya in favor of an Arab summit to tackle the issue of Soviet Jews?

[Al-Talhi] In the context of that understanding, we would welcome any Arab meeting to discuss the dangers threatening the Arab nation.

[AL-HAWADITH] The recent international changes reflected in the events in East Europe and the Soviet Union call for a unifed Arab stance because they are bound to affect us. How does Libya view these changes?

[Al-Talhi] All you can say is that the world is witnessing fundamental changes and that new and good international relations will emerge as a result of these changes. Many of the post-war axioms will certainly change fundamentally. If we do not absorb these facts we will pay a high price, and if we do not put our house in order and surmount the current state of division, many of these developments and changes will not be in our favor. As I have said, the matter calls for an Arab response that would affect the Arab situation and answer to the serious developments.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you not believe that the good Libyan-Soviet relations could be negatively affected by these changes?

[Al-Talhi] We always base our good relations on mutual respect, noninterference in the internal affairs of others, and respect for the choices made by every other society, regardless of whether they are capitalist, communist, socialist, or anything else. We have always refused to be subservient to any tendency or state. Our decisions are independent. I therefore do not believe that what is happening in the Soviet Union could affect relations between our two countries, which must grow stronger.

[AL-HAWADITH] There has been criticism of the slow pace of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], which casts doubt on its ability to achieve its objectives. Do you agree with that?

[Al-Talhi] I believe that the work done and steps taken in implementing the Marrakkesh agreement on the UMA is good. Let us not forget that the UMA is only a year old. In that one year the treaty has been ratified and all the organs under the treaty have been created and most of them have begun to operate. The latest example is the first summit conference held in Tunis.

[AL-HAWADITH] So are you satisfied with the progress of the union?

[Al-Talhi] I believe that what has been achieved recently constitutes grounds for satisfaction and shows that there is a shared political will to proceed with the implementation of what was agreed.

[AL-HAWADITH] Some people claim that Libya's membership of the UMA means that the idea of comprehensive unity has been abandoned. Do you believe that cooperation among the three groups could be a realistic suitable alternative at this stage?

[Al-Talhi] As you know, at the first UMA summit conference there was emphasis on the need for cooperation with the other regional groups. I believe that if we all directed relations among these groupings, and within each grouping, toward strengthening joint Arab action and the Arab League, then these groupings would be a positive factor in promoting more Arab solidarity, which would be a step toward Arab unity. We must take care that regional action is not at the expense of joint Arab action.

[AL-HAWADITH] Work has begun on returning the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, as is Egypt's wish. What is Libya's position on this matter?

[Al-Talhi] It is up to the Arab states. Contacts are under way among the parties concerned. I can say that there is no real problem in this connection.

[AL-HAWADITH] How do you assess President Mubarak's role as OAU chairman?

[Al-Talhi] We attach much importance to that chairmanship, since President Mubarak's OAU chairmanship and Egypt's traditional influence in Africa could play a significant role in settling disputes between African states. Much attention is focused on Africa, and President Mubarak plays a prominent role in settling disputes such as that between Mauritania and Senegal and also in connection with relations between Libya and Chad.

[AL-HAWADITH] Libya is a state with some weight and influence in Africa. Do you not believe that there is a need for a Libyan, as well as Arab, role in connection with Israel's penetration of Africa and the restoration of its diplomatic relations with a number of African states?

[Al-Talhi] We have always explained to our African brothers the truth about the racist regime in occupied Palestine, its aggressive and expansionist nature, how it was created through the usurpation of land and displacement of its people, and how it continues to usurp land and displace people. I believe that anyone who understands this issue cannot fail to support the Palestinians and the Arabs in their stance toward the Zionist entity. Then there is the question of the special relations and ties between the racist regimes in Palestine and South Africa. Even the closest friends of the Zionist entity have spoken of that cooperation in the fields of nuclear weapons, missiles, and other weapons of mass destruction. The danger of that entity is not confined to the Arab world, but extends to the African Continent. These are facts which we believe our African brothers are aware of, and their positions should be determined accordingly, but we must realize that the weakness of the Arab position affects the African position.

Mauritania

Taya Says Senegal Conflict Part of Enemies' Plot

AB2803232890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 28 Mar 90

[President Ould Taya address to the nation on 27 March in Nouakchott on the occasion of the Ramadan fast month and first anniversary of the Senegal-Mauritania border conflict—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, here we are at the beginning of the blessed Ramadan month, a month of happiness, quietude, and meditation. This happy occasion brings back to our minds the painful events that took place in Senegal at the same time last year. At that time, thousands of our innocent compatriots were massacred, plundered, and subjected to the most abominable forms of physical and moral torture. A large number of them continue to be held hostage. Today, a year after these painful events, it is quite clear that the tragedy that befell our peaceful compatriots was only a phase of an odious plot hatched by some circles known for their hostility to the existence and the independence of our people. From the beginning, we grasped the scope of this conspiracy, and avoiding any excesses, we strived to limit, as much as possible, the repercussions of this tragedy on the peoples of the region. But our enemies could not stomach their failure. They continued to poison the situation between the two countries and multiply the obstacles and stalemates in all the initiatives. After their total failure, they decided to resort to other procedures to achieve their designs against our country and our people.

We are fully aware of the motives that push them to bear us a grudge, namely: the increasing awareness of the people, their growing interest in working, the success of the democratic process, the creation of tens of thousands of jobs in the agricultural sector, and the very high increase in productivity in this sector which was neglected. All these achievements recorded in a world confronted with an acute economic crisis can only incite the jealousy and hatred of our enemies. The reception of some 240,000 persons expelled from Senegal, the creation of thousands of jobs for them, and the success of the resettlement program constitute additional reasons to sharpen the hostility of our detractors.

My dear compatriots, the plot hatched against us and the dangers it presents demand more sacrifices, readiness, and endurance from each one of us to ensure our country's defense, to safeguard its dignity and guarantee the radiant future to which we are all aspiring. Thus I call on you to fully play your role in this battle for honor and survival. As this blessed month begins, I pray that Almighty Allah enables us to meet the challenges imposed on us and makes us triumph over our enemies. Finally, I wish all Mauritanians and the Islamic community a happy and exemplary fast.

Commentary on Border Conflict

AB2903150790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Mauritania News Agency commentary: "When Faced With Plots, Mobilization Becomes Imperative"]

[Text] This year's Ramadan fasting month is especially significant for all Mauritanians. This is what Colonel Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, stressed in the important address he made to the nation on that occasion. In fact, during the same month last year, while Muslims throughout the world were fasting and meditating for piety and forgiveness, bloody and inhuman events broke out in Senegal. Thousands of innocent Mauritanians were massacred and their properties looted. The survivors of this massacre endured the worst physical and moral torture, many were expelled in inhuman conditions, while others are still being held hostage.

A year has passed, and the reasons for such tragic events have now become quite clear. (?The maltreatment) of our compatriots in Senegal is only an episode in a vast plot hatched by the very people who displayed their hostility to the independence of our country and to the existence of and sovereignty between nations. Before the wave of reorganization, while our people were going through a difficult period which caused concern for the future, the perpetrators of the April 1989 plot [words indistinct] of Mauritania's history.

Now that our country is raising its head again, they are struggling hard like devils to create all sorts of problems for it. Their constant hostility was further intensified following the great achievements of the 12 December 1984 movement, which caused our country to be cited in many fields as a model in the subregion. Our people, who have acquired a high level of awareness and have resolutely turned toward productive work, are the pivot for the battle for development. Our successful democratic experience gave us back our self-confidence and has enabled us to take our own destiny into our own hands. Our economic reform policy has obtained extremely good results in the fields of agriculture, fishing, and the rehabilitation of public enterprises and the banking system.

The agricultural sector, hitherto limping, has since 12 December 1984 achieved an unprecedented leap forward. From 20,000 tonnes in 1984 at the time of the great reorganization movement, our agricultural production has gone to 142,000 tonnes for 1988-89 and the growth rate in the agricultural sector [words indistinct] for 1989-90. Tens of thousands of jobs have thus been created in this sector. The reception and reintegration of 240,000 citizens expelled from Senegal thanks to the national will of solidarity and the integration plan set up by the government has unpleasantly surprised all our enemies.

We have achieved all these results in a situation of serious international economic crisis. It is this success that our enemies cannot forgive us, and this is the real beginning of the conflict.

Our country, which very quickly exposed the authors of the April plot, has always refused to yield to the blackmailing likely to jeopardize our future—in spite of the verbal insults, mind-poisoning, and our enemies' desire to put our country at a standstill. It is thanks to the firm and responsible stand of our national leadership that the April plot was foiled and our region was spared irreparable damage between the two peoples, who do need that.

However, our enemies have not given up, and they continue to search for every means likely to achieve their criminal designs against our people and our country. In the face of this (?folly), the defense of the fatherland and its perpetuity becomes everybody's affair. Each citizen should display a great sense of preparedness for mobilization at all times to face this danger and foil the plans of our enemies in this blessed month of trials and sacrifices. We should redouble our efforts and intensify our sense of sacrifice to defend our country and guarantee the better future to which we all aspire.

Japanese Authorities To Forgive Part of Debt

AB2603072290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Summary] The Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Tokyo on 23 March exchanged notes with Japanese authorities. According to the terms of these notes, Japan will write off part of Mauritania's debt by 158.643 million yen, and donate 250 million yen for increasing food production in Mauritania.

Morocco

Chamber Speaker Osman on Sahara Referendum

PM2903155090 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Mar 90 pp 30-31

[Interview with Chamber of Representatives Speaker Ahmed Osman by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that by postponing parliamentary elections for two years Morocco was giving the international community and the international organization time to resolve the Moroccan-Saharan problem?

[Ahmed Osman] King Hassan II's speech in which he announced the postponement of the elections and called for a people's referendum on that decision was clear. He stressed: "We have been patient enough," and I believe this is the last chance Morocco is giving its rivals to prove their good intentions and end their procrastination and tricks. Actually that step was based on the fact that some matters are linked to the elections, since they

cannot be held everywhere in Morocco except the Saharan provinces. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Does the tour of Morocco and some Saharan towns by the UN secretary general and his deputy fall within the framework of preparing for the referendum and removing the obstacles raised by the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]?

[Ahmed Osman] The UN secretary general contacted the parties concerned and agreed with them on several principles concerning participants, the referendum, and those entitled to take part from among the real Saharan people. One fact is clear, namely, that some of the leaders of the so-called Polisario perhaps have no right to take part in the referendum. This is because some of them were born in the northern part of Morocco. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] But it seems that the Polisario is eager to continue to set obstacles in the way of the referendum, although it was the Polisario which demanded it. Now it is demanding direct negotiations with Morocco. Why does Morocco reject such a solution?

[Ahmed Osman] In principle we do not accept negotiations with them. Direct negotiation means determining the results of the referendum in advance. They do not represent the Saharan people. The Sahara is Moroccan—no argument about that. A large number of the leaders of the so-called Polisario have returned to the right path and joined the motherland, so why should we negotiate, and over what? That would contradict the referendum idea designed to determine the Saharan people's view about their return to Morocco. Accepting negotiations means making a verdict in advance concerning an issue which the two parties have agreed to resolve via a referendum. We are not going to make the mistakes which others made when they helped establish a state in the Sahara without asking the Saharan people their opinion. They imposed on the OAU a so-called republic as a full member of the organization without consulting the Saharan people.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you believe that Morocco can depend on an end to the Saharan problem in the days ahead, especially in view of the emergence of important factors in that regard, such as the return of some Polisario leaders to Morocco and the strength of Moroccan-Algerian relations?

[Ahmed Osman] What you say is absolutely correct. Naturally the return of some of the leaders of the so-called Polisario represent an important factor which proves the truth of what they are proposing and the legitimacy of the Moroccan position. They have come to the motherland in response to King Hassan's call: "The homeland is forgiving and compassionate." [passage omitted]

Cabinet Views Amendments to UMA Treaty

LD2903174990 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Rabat, Mar 29 (MAP)—The Moroccan Cabinet Wednesday considered for amendment Articles 11 and 12 of the treaty instituting the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). The amendment was decided by the second session of the UMA Presidential Council held in Tunis last January 21 to 23 to reinforce the structures of the UMA.

Article 11 of the UMA treaty provides for extending the UMA General Secretariat with the necessary means to carry out its mission in coordination with the different bodies of the UMA which will have a fixed secretariat.

Article 12 provides for the raising of the number of the Consultative Council members from 10 to 20 for each country.

The cabinet also dealt with the letters exchanged by Morocco and Algeria last January on the trade and customs accord of March 1989. Under the letters the two parties agreed to fix the amount of the tax on the added value in force in Morocco concerning the goods imported from Algeria and the amount of the global unique tax on production in force in Algeria on the commodities imported from Morocco without taking into account the customs tax and other taxes the products exchanged by the two countries are exempted from.

The cabinet also examined the accord signed in Algiers last January on the avoiding of double taxation and on setting the rules concerning mutual assistance in matters of income taxes.

Sudan

Minister on Cairo Visit, Situation in South

JN2803204990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Mar 90 p 9

[Excerpts] Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, Sudanese minister of state for defense, has said that his talks in Cairo with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, Egyptian defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, were successful. He said: We agreed to imlement the joint defense pact between Egypt and Sudan on various levels and to exchange expertise between commanders and officers in the two countries' armed forces. They agreed to increase the number of senior officers attending courses in the national defense academies of the two countries. The Sudanese minister said that the Sudanese National Defense Academy is the twin of the Egyptian National Defense Academy, so ideas and experience will be exchanged through the exchange of visits. He made these remarks in an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM before leaving Cairo yesterday. [passage omitted]

On the situation in southern Sudan, the Sudanese minister said that the rebels are still controlling areas such as

Torit and Kapoeta in eastern Equatoria and Joku in the Upper Nile. They are well-armed and depend on their armament and training from Israel and Cuba. We have seized three modified T-55 tanks sent to them by Israel. The minister denied rebel reports that they had seized Sudanese Armed Forces' weapons. He added that the Armed Forces do not use tanks of that type; this proves that they are lying. The rebels have also received rocket launchers from abroad. He said: Our forces saw Cuban and Israeli experts with the rebels. Rebels who had surrendered—27 rebels surrendered last week in the Upper Nile—confessed everything. We also have recordings of remarks made by their leader, John Garang—during his meetings in some African countries—admits this. The Sudanese minister added that African countries, including Zimbabwe, are helping the rebels. We hope that everyone will understand our desire to preserve Sudan's unity and establish peace in the region.

Egyptian Remarks on Efforts

EA0204204990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 April (SUNA)—The Egyptian efforts for solving the southern Sudan problem and realising peace in Sudan are progressing well, said Egyptian Deputy-Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the discussions of a delegation from the outlaws movement in Egypt recently as effective.

It is to be recalled that a delegation from the movement visited Cairo recently in response to an invitation from the Egyptian Government, and met during the week-long visit with the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Official: Talks With Rebels Within Two Months

EA2903215690 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA)—Major General (rtd) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, the minister of state for defense, has stated that the peace efforts made by a number of African countries will lead to a peace agreement between the government and the rebel movement before the end of the year. In an interview for the daily AL-KHALIJ, Mr. [as received] 'Uthman noted that the next round of talks between the government and the rebels would be held within the next two months. The minister of state added that Kenya, Zaire, Ethiopia, and Egypt were currently contributing to the efforts aimed at putting an end to the conflict in southern Sudan.

Mr. 'Uthman also noted that during his visit to Cairo, he and the Egyptian defense minister had discussed military cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Turabi Meets With Oppositionists Abroad

PM0204142090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2 Apr 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Turabi Mediates With Islamic Opposition"]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in London have said that [National Islamic Front leader] Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi's visit to the British capital last week was made in response to an assignment from the ruling military council in Sudan to seek a reconciliation with some of the London-based Sudanese opposition forces. The sources pointed out that that a reconciliation is Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's condition for implementing the integration agreement which he signed recently with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir.

Dr. al-Turabi was quoted as saying at a meeting with some Sudanese residing in London that the National Islamic Front, which he leads, controls the Sudanese Army, and that the 30 June 1989 coup was organized by the Front. He also said that the Revolution Command Council under Lt. Gen. al-Bashir will continue to rule the country until an Islamic and Federal constitution is drawn up—a constitution under which a civilian government would be formed to apply the Islamic Shari'a.

Furthermore, Sudanese political sources have said that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's house arrest is expected to be lifted. He will be allowed to live at his home in Omdurman. He is currently under house arrest at the home of former Culture Minister Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far.

Accord Reached With Rebels on Operation Lifeline

EA0204163490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Apr (SUNA)—Dr. (Ibrahim Abu Awf), under secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Affairs of displaced persons, has told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH that agreement has been reached on Phase Two of Operation Lifeline. He said the rebel movement had conveyed its agreement to Mr. Priestly, the UN secretary general's representative for (?relief) to Operation Lifeline.

There will be further contacts between the government and Mr. Priestly on this matter. He added that the Lifeline program would be implemented, and a schedule detailing the quantities of relief materials to be dispatched to the affected areas would be compiled. A system for transfers under preferential prices from the Bank of Sudan to the donors [as received] would be established.

With regard to guarantees for the implementation of the Lifeline program, Dr. (Awf) stated that the UN has a moral obligation to the state to convey and distribute the relief supplies exclusively to civilians in the war stricken areas.

Dr. (Awf) said the checks laid down provided that only such voluntary organizations as had been registered by the government would be allowed to operate within Sudan. There was also a positive factor [word indistinct] represented a single joint account with the Bank of Sudan for transfers at preferential prices to facilitate the movement of financial liquidity.

Defense Forces Chief on Kurdufan Situation

EA2903224090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0915 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA)—Brigadier General Babikr abd al-Mahmud Husayn, commander in chief of the Popular Defense Forces, has asserted that his forces have succeeded in crushing the rebels and in restoring security in the southern province of Kurdufan and in the Mujlad and Abyei areas of Bahr al-Ghazal [as received].

Slashed U.S. Aid 'Does Not Affect' Country

JN0104170390 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Doha, April 1 (GNA)—Sudanese Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. Sayyid 'Ali Zaki has said that Washington's recent decision to cut its 20 million dollars aid to Sudan does not affect the government's plans now or in the future.

Dr. Zaki, in a statement to Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, published today, said his country would not bow to the U.S. pressures, emphasising that the Sudan could compensate for the U.S. aid by increasing agricultural productivity.

He noted that consultations were currently under way between Sudan and the Gulf states on prospects of establishing joint agricultural ventures to meet the people's need for food.

Dr. Zaki said the current economic crisis in his country was due to, among other things, huge expenditures on security, drought and the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries.

Noting that Sudan's foreign debt amounted to U.S. dollars 13 billion, Dr. Zaki said the government has adopted several measures to curb budget deficits, including lifting subsidies of basic commodities and raising transport fares.

Federal System Seminar Publishes Recommendations

EA2501215880 Khartoum SUNA in French 1510 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum 25 March (SUNA)—A seminar on the federal system organized from 20 to 25 March in Khartoum ended its work this morning and published its final recommendations.

The seminar took the recommendations of the national dialogue conference for peace as a basis for the implementation of the federal system in Sudan. In its recommendations, the seminar emphasized the formation of a federal council charged with preparing studies and research on the federal system, in addition to reviewing the performance of all federal bodies.

The seminar suggested that implementation of the federal system in the country be postponed until the system can be implemented gradually or partially, on the condition that economic and technical feasibility studies of all the country's capabilities are carried out to ensure the success of the system.

In its final recommendations, the seminar affirmed the importance of the creation of a democratic political body which responds to the needs of global development in the country and ensures popular participation in government.

The seminar called for holding a national conference with the participation of the representatives of all regional bodies, specialists, and popular and social sectors, with a view to studying and determining the fundamental principles of the federal system, in conformity with the resolutions of the national dialogue conference for peace and the decisions of the federal government's technical committee.

In its final recommendations, the seminar called for the creation of a federal council for economic planning in charge of elaborating [words indistinct]. The seminar also accorded great importance to the support [word indistinct]. We should note that the seminar, which started its work on 20 March [words indistinct].

Al-Bashir: Sudan To Strengthen Neighboring Ties

EA0204123690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, said in statements to the press following his arrival at Entebbe Airport in Uganda today that Sudan was moving ahead to strengthen its relations with the neighboring African states. He described his current visit to Uganda as being in line with the National Salvation Revolution's efforts to build strong relations with African states. He pointed out that the revolution had declared this year to be Africa year in Sudan. He stressed that the visit was part of these efforts to entrench new and strong relations between friendly peoples. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's visit to Uganda will last two days.

RCC Member Meets Omani and EC Envoys

EA3003161890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] This morning, Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, Revolution Command Council [RCC]

member and chairman of the Political Committee, discussed at his office in the People's Palace with His Excellency the ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Mr. Mubarak ibn Khalfan al-Sabbahi, relations between the two countries and methods of strengthening and developing them. Brig. Gen. 'Uthman thanked him for the efforts he has made to strengthen relations, stressing to him the desire of the National Salvation Revolution to unite the Arab nation. It is worth mentioning that the meeting marked the end of the ambassador's appointment in the country.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. 'Uthman this afternoon met the EC representative. During the meeting, there was a discussion of the plan for integration between Sudan and Libya. Brig. Gen. 'Uthman assured the ambassador that the integration plan was a nucleus for a comprehensive Afro-Arab unity and that it was not directed against any neighboring state. He added that integration between the two fraternal peoples would be of advantage to various countries. He said that the revolution had worked for unity without any vested interest [word indistinct].

Council Member, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Libya

EA0104211090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Political Committee, yesterday received in his office the American ambassador in Khartoum, with whom he discussed the declaration of integration between Sudan and the Libya.

The chairman of the Political Committee explained that the relationship between the two peoples was firm and brotherly. What had taken place was (?an entrenchment) of that relationship in response to the popular wish to develop the Libyan-Sudanese relations in the interests of the two peoples.

The two also discussed Operation Lifeline Sudan and the efforts being made to establish peace in the south of the country.

The ambassador praised the government's earnest efforts to achieve peace in Sudan.

BBC Views Influence of National Islamic Front

AB3103110790 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Mar 90

[From "Network Africa" program, hosted by Fergus Nichol]

[Text] The Sudan has been much in the news recently, mainly because of the trumpeted government proposal of integration with Libya. But meanwhile, the situation in Sudan looks pretty grim: democratic politics suppressed, the brutal war in the south regaining momentum, and economic misery all over. Ever since General 'Umar al-Bashir threw Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi out of office last June 30, there's been a suspicion that the ruling Revolutionary Command Council has been strongly shaped by militant Islamic influences. Well, the British journalist David Hearst, who normally reports on the Middle East, has just been in Khartoum. In yesterday's London GUARDIAN newspaper, he describes General al-Bashir's government as a Khomeini-style Islamic fundamentalist regime. Well, I called him up now back at his base in Cyprus to ask him what he meant by that:

[Begin recording] [Hearst] I meant that what has been fairly clear to most thoughtful secular political observers in the Sudan—I mean Sudanese themselves—what's been clear to them from the very outset is that behind this military junta lays the National Islamic Front [NIF]—this has now become more and more obvious to more and more people, inside the country and outside it.

[Nichol] What's actually become of the NIF led by Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi? It was disbanded along with the other political parties when the military regime took over. Is it coming out into the open more?

[Hearst] Yes, it is, in two ways. One is in the massive infiltration of the existing state administration, and the creation of new bodies parallel to this state administration, reinforcing it and of course to some extent in competition with it. It's also apparent in the policies of the regime, although the policies are not really very coherent—they're improvised. But Sudanese observers say that it's obvious that they're drawing on the inspiration of well-known NIF ideas and attitudes.

[Nichol] What about the relationship with Libya that's been given a lot of noise over the last month or so. Is this convincing, do you believe?

[Hearst] Well, most people believe that the regime feels so desperately isolated that it's looking for friends wherever it can find them. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has of course his own interests in the Sudan, and they're related to his problems with Chad. It is said that they hope that al-Qadhdhafi will supply arms and possibly even troops or aircraft to help them in their war against the southerners, a war which since they came to power has reignited in a grand manner.

[Nichol] Is there a feeling in Khartoum at the moment that the regime is ready for a separation of the Sudan from Arab north to (?a second) south?

[Hearst] There is indeed a feeling among what I call the secular intelligentsia that that is a drastic remedy which the regime might be ready to resort to, since they are believed to want to set up an Islamic state in the full fundamentalist sense of the term. And since a large portion of the Sudanese population are not with them, especially those in the south, it is logical that that state could only be set up in the northern Arab part of the country. Some statements that the leaders have made lend serious plausibility to this thesis

SPLM's Akol Cited on Cairo Visit

JN3003163090 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Mar 90 p 2

[Interview with Lam Akol, deputy leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], by Aminah al-Naqqash in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Naqqash] What is the purpose of your visit to Cairo?

[Akol] We came at the invitation of the Egyptian Government to discuss how to push the peace process forward in Sudan. This is the first meeting between a SPLM delegation and Egyptian officials since 'Umar al-Bashir's coup. Meetings had been held in Cairo in 1985 and 1989. The current meetings take on special importance as Egypt is now chairman of the OAU.

Our movement is committed to the Sudanese peace initiative signed in 16 November 1988 by Dr. John Garang and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. All Sudanese parties and political forces, except the National Islamic Front, accepted the initiative. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] Why have your talks with the Sudanese Government in Addis Ababa and Nairobi failed?

[Akol] Because 'Umar al-Bashir's government insisted on adhering to the September 1983 laws and rejected the Sudanese initiative, which was accepted by the Sudanese people and all their political forces. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] What does the SPLM want? What kind of system does it wish to see in order to stop fighting and accept participation?

[Akol] In the SPLM program and in the speeches of the movement's leader, we have said that we seek to build the new Sudan—a democratic and unified country chracterized by social justice for all groups, nationalities, religions, and classes. We stood against the institutions created by the Numayri regime. After the popular uprising, these institutions remained unchanged, and this proves the soundness of our approach. We do not attack individuals, but policies and systems. Once all the political forces have reached a peace agreement, all the circumstances that led to resumption of the war will end. [passage omitted]

[Al-Naqqash] Is it true that the SPLM has relations with Israel?

[Akol] We have no ties with Israel, and our position on the Palestine question is based on our support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. This is very well known by our friends in the PLO. We also dismiss Zionism as a racist ideology. The SPLM celebrated the second anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah. Any talk about links with Israel is a ridiculous claim made by the Khartoum government to distort the image of the SPLM, create a rift between the movement and Arab countries, and divert attention from the Sudanese Government's own cooperation with persons indicted during the uprising with smuggling Falasha Jews to Israel—people like al-Fatih 'Arwah, who works in the security apparatus of al-Bashir's regime.

SPLM Delegation Holds Talks With Mubarak

EA0104094390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] A delegation of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] headed by Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command, visited Egypt in the period from 19 to 28 March 1990, following an invitation extended to the movement by the Egyptian Government. The purpose of the visit was to exchange views on the question of peace in the Sudan. The SPLM/SPLA delegation held talks with the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, a number of his aides, and senior party and executive members in Egypt. Radio SPLA will bring you details in our next broadcast.

SPLM Joins National Democratic Grouping

PM3003141090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Mar 90 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Garang Movement Announces Joining National Democratic Grouping"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], which is waging the war in the South, has announced that it has become a participating member of the opposition National Democratic Grouping which comprises the parties and unions, various political forces, and Armed Forces representatives.

A statement issued following a series of meetings over the past few days between a Garang movement delegation and representatives of the Sudanese political parties said that the SPLM "has become a real partner in the National Democratic Grouping." [passage omitted]

The statement accused the National Islamic Front of obstructing peace efforts and of working to topple the democratic system on 30 June last year.

The statement went on to say that it was not strange for the SPLM and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] to declare their position against that coup and its orientations from the outset. Proceeding from the same point, the movement unreservedly welcomed the birth of the National Democratic Grouping and announced its support for the basic principles contained in the charter agreed by that grouping, except with regard to certain principles and details requiring clarification. [passage omitted]

Program of the Direct Daily Struggle

First: Since the struggle for peace is essential in all circumstances, the SPLM and SPLA consider it logical that the grouping's first objective be to work tirelessly for peace while combating the tendencies trying to give the current war in Sudan a religious and racial dimension.

Second: The forms of popular struggle mentioned in Article 5 exclude armed struggle, which represents an important element of the movement's struggle. Thus the movement stresses that armed struggle at this stage is an integral part of the people's struggle to secure democracy.

Forms of Rule

First: The SPLM and the SPLA agree on the need to establish a transitional rule for a suitable period of five years to enable the revolution authority to resolve inherited problems. [passage omitted]

Second: Although the movement agrees to the proposed form of rule, it sees no justification for the reference made to the presence of a southerner in the sovereignty council [Majlis al-Siyadah], because the time has come for us to abandon old molds completely. The movement also sees a need for the presidency to be assumed by rotation because of the sensitivity of the transitional period.

Third: While acknowledging the need to establish national and executive councils in the province, the movement believes that Sudan's economic conditions should be taken into account when forming these councils. It also believes that the reference made to the rule of the southern province according to regional self-rule is not successful, not only because it follows the old molds, which divide Sudan into North and South, but because the regional self-rule law itself is governed by its stipulations, including that its institutions be based on the election principle, not appointment.

Fourth: With regard to the formation of the national council, the movement sees a need to agree on an objective basis for determining which political parties are entitled to take part. The SPLM and the SPLA also believe that there should be prior agreement on the need for the movement's political and military wings to be represented in the council. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces

In the movement's view, discussion of the national character of the Armed Forces cannot be confined to the principle of keeping it free of partisanship. The movement's resolute stance is to restructure the forces, not only because they represent the formidable strength of the authorities which the movement wants to restructure, but also in order to draw up a national formula for its structure and organization with the aim of protecting the democratic civilian authorities from the adventures of the military. [passage omitted]

Foreign Policy

While it fully supports the principles mentioned in Article 1, the movement believes that these principles are general and lack certain details about work priorities, especially since foreign policy is one of the fields in which there is a great deal of political one-upmanship. So it believes that foreign policy's prime duty with regard to professional programs during the transitional period must be directed to the following:
1—Using diplomacy to rebuild and reconstruct Sudan.
2—Drawing up fixed formulas for relations with Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, and the Nile basin states within the framework of the agreements and principles governing regional integration and on the grounds that neighboring states represent the starting point for any regional integration, especially those which relations with them must be given utmost priority in view of historical ties, geographical factors, and common interests. [passage omitted]

Radio SPLA Lists Names of 'Tortured Detainees'

EA0104174090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The following is a list containing some names of tortured detainees. The 44 detainees were arrested and detained in the months of October to December last year.

They are: Siddiq al-Hindi, a businessman: date of detention, 14 October 1989; Midawi al-Turabi, businessman: detained on 14 October 1989. Nasr al-Din Nur al-Da'im, Department of Planning: detained on 14 October 1989; Salah Muhammad Salih, a businessman; [date of detention unreported]. Sadiq Sid Ahmad al-Shami, advocate and member of the Council of Sudan Bar Association: detained on 3 December 1989 for the second time; Dr. Faruq Muhammad Ibrahim, lecturer of botany at the University of Khartoum: detained on 30 November 1989; 'Abd al-Mun'im Muhammad Ahmad, merchant at Khartoum: detained on 4 December 1989; Dr. Hammudah Fu'ad Irham, president of White Nile Doctors' Union: detained on 23 November 1989; Dr. Ma'mun Muhammad Husayn, member of the Council of Sudan Doctors' Union and ex-president of Sudan Doctors' Union: detained on 26 November 1989; Dr. Sa'id Muhammad 'Abdallah, member of the Council of Sudan Doctors' Union: detained on 28 November 1989.

Dr. Ja'far Muhammad Salih, president of the Central Region's Doctors' Union: detained on 28 November 1989; Dr. al-Fan Gordon, doctor at Khartoum North Hospital: detained on 28 November 1989; Dr. Babikr Muhammad Badri, doctor at Khartoum Hospital: detained on 28 November 1989; Ja'Far Bakri, employee at Sudan Judiciary Administration: detained on 2 December 1989; Hashim Bakr Tuli, employee at a local company: detained on 2 December 1989; Mansur Ishaq Izra'il, a pharmacist: detained on 29 November 1989; Al-Shaykh al-Khidr, Department of Planning: detained on 3 December 1989; Ibrahim Nasr al-Din, engineer at

the electricity corporation: detained on 28 November 1989; Mahjub Ahmad al-Zubayr, vice president of Sudan Workers' Federation: detained on 22 November 1989; Hashim Muhammad Ahmad, president of Sudan Engineers' Union, detained on 28 November 1989; Ali al-Mahi al-Shawqi, president of Sudan Workers' Trade Union detained on 22 November 1989.

Muhammad Nur al-Tayyib, businessman: detained on 5 December 1989; Awad al-Karim Muhammad Ahmad, secretary general of Sudan Engineers' Union: detained on 5 December 1989; Dr. Tahir Isma'il Humadah, lecturer of medicine, University of Khartoum: detained on 28 November 1989; 'Abdallah Bashir, engineer at the General Wire and Wireless Comunications Corporation: detained on 2 December 1989; 'Abdallah al-Sunni, computer engineer at private sector: detained on 2 December 1989; 'Abd al-Rahman al-Zayn, advocate: detained on 2 December 1989; Nasir Murqus, a pharmacist: detained on 27 November 1989; Dr. Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid, ex-manager of Sudan medical supplies: detained on 27 November 1989; Nasir Mahmud Husayn, pharmacist private sector: detained on 28 November 1989; Muhammad Ali Mahashi, economy private accountant, detained on 5 December 1989; Abd al-Jhalil Muhammad Hasan, economist at the General Petroleum Corporation: detained on 28 November 1989.

Tariq al-Shaykh al-Tayyib, administrative officer: detained on 29 November 1989; Abd al-Mun'im Muhammad Salih, administrative officer: detained on 23 November 1989. Sulayman al-Khidr, businessman: detained on 29 November 1989; Abbas Hasan Wahbah, secretary general of public electricity corporation trade union: detained on 28 November 1989; Akkashah 'Abd al-Rahman, member of the Central Committee of Sudan workers federation: detained on 27 November 1989; Dr. Qasim Hamadallah, agricultural manager: detained on 23 November 1989; 'Ali Awad 'Ali, tax inspector: detained on 28 December 1989; Salah 'Abd al-Rahman Abu Na'if, engineer: detained on 28 November 1989; Al-amin Sulayman al-Hutah, Engineers' Union: detained on 28 November 1989; 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Abd al-Rahman, merchant: detained on 3 December 1989; Jamal Abd al-Rahman Sid Ahmad, doctor: detained on 28 December 1989; Mahmud Mukhtar, teacher: detained on 2 November 1989. [passage omitted].

Official Calls Visit to Chad 'Very Successful'

EA2903214490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abu-al-Qasim Ahmad Shummu, the minister of state for agriculture and animal resources, has stated that his visit to Chad was very successful in activating cooperation and exchanges of experience between the two countries. He said that during the visit an agreement was signed on technical cooperation in the field of animal health and the movement of livestock in the border areas between Sudan and Chad. He added that agreement had been reached on developing cooperation in the field of health and veterinary control and scientific research.

Dr. 'Abu-al-Qasim Ahmad Shummu returned to the country from Ndjamena yesterday after a one-week visit to Chad. The visit was at the invitation of the Chadian minister of animal resources.

$100 Million Trade Agreement Signed With China

EA0204111690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1510 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Apr (SUNA)—In Khartoum today Sudan and China signed a $100 million trade protocol. This protocol, which was signed by Muhammad Nur Hamid, first undersecretary of the Commerce Ministry, and by the Chinese ambassador to Khartoum, is aimed at developing commercial relations between the two countries.

In accordance with this protocol, Sudan will export to China cotton, gum arabic and other agricultural produce, and it will import from China medicines, food, light industry products, and construction materials.

French Government To Cancel Debt and Interest

EA2903105590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The French Government has decided to cancel debts owed by the Sudanese Government amounting to 287 million francs, and also to cancel the interest on these debts amounting to 91 million francs. This decision comes following approval by the French Parliament of a motion for the cancellation of the debts, which was announced by the president of the French Republic in Dakar and concerns general development assistance loans granted to 35 of the most indebted African countries.

Al-Bashir Replaces University Rectors

EA0104095890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has issued a number of decrees in the framework of implementing the higher education revolution. The decrees provide for the dismissal of the rector and deputy rector of Khartoum University. Professor Muddathir al-Tangari has been appointed rector and Professor Engineer Abidin Muhammad Ali Salih deputy rector of Khartoum University.

The rector of Al-Jazirah University has also been dismissed. It has been decided to appoint Mr. Qasi Farah al-Tijani Hasan al-Amin rector of Al-Jazirah University and Mr. Ma'mun Ahmad al-Buhayri [economic adviser

to the prime minister in 1977 and governor of the Bank of Sudan in 1988] chairman of the Al-Jazirah University Council.

The decrees provide for the dismissal of the rector of the University of Science and Technology of Sudan and of his deputy. It has been decided to appoint Professor Ahmad al-Amin 'Abd al-Rahman rector of the University of Science and Technology of Sudan, Dr. Izz al-Din Muhammad 'Uthman as his deputy, and Professor Ahmad 'Abd al- Rahman al-Aqib as chairman of the council of the University of Science and Technology of Sudan.

The RCC chairman also issued a decree providing for the appointment of: —Angelo Beda [chairman of the Southern Council in 1988] as chairman of the council of the University of Juba; —Dr. Akok de Mater as deputy rector of the University of Juba; —Dr. Ali Ahmad Muhammad Babikr [member of the Ulama Council in 1985] as deputy rector of the Islamic University of Omdurman; —Dr. Ahmad Ali Muhammad al-Imam [named by SUNA on 16 April 1986 as National Islamic Front MP for Constituency Number 56] as deputy rector of the University [Omdurman] for Koranic and Islamic Sciences; —Professor Muhammad 'Uthman 'Abd al-Malik as rector of the University of the Nile Valley; —Prof. Ghabbush al-Dawi as rector of the University of Kurdufan; —Prof. Ibrahim al-Amin Hajar as rector of the University of First of September in Darfur; —Prof. Abdallah al-Tayyib as principal of the Arabic Language Institute.

AFP on University Dismissals

AB0204152690 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, April 2 (AFP)—Sudan's military ruler general 'Umar al-Bashir has sacked the principals and their deputies at nearly all the country's universities, the international edition of the Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported here Monday.

It said all but one of the dismissed senior staffers were known for their opposition to the fundamentalist National Islamic Front, and in some cases had been elected to their posts in preference to front candidates.

The purge was part of a "revolution" in higher education, the paper said, and the sacked men had apparently disagreed with reform proposals set out at a national teaching conference last month.

The affected universities included the Universities of Khartoum, Gezira, Juba (relocated in the capital Khartoum because of civil war in the south), the Islamic University at Omdurman, provincial universities in then north and in Kurdufan and Darfur, and the Arab Language Academy.

Radio Cites Success, 'Heavy' Rebel Losses

EA3103135490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Our Armed Forces in the Bahr al-Ghazal area, near the fruit-canning factory, have succeeded in inflicting heavy losses of life and material on the outlaws, whose force commander, a lieutenant, was captured. Moreover, the people's defense forces moved in to support our valiant Armed Forces in implementing their operations plan in West Nuer, where the forces clashed with the renegades in the northeastern part of (?Lol Tonga) Island on three axes, inflicting heavy losses of life and weapons on the outlaws, scattered remnants of whom withdrew into the swamps.

Our forces sacrificed nine martyrs and 32 wounded, of whom 16 were only slightly wounded. The outlaws lost 112 killed and large numbers of wounded, while a lieutenant was captured. Also captured were a 60.75 mortar, two (?Daranov) field guns, three Mark-7 rocket launchers, and 39 Kalashnikov rifles. Our forces are still pursuing and tracking down the scattered remnants of the outlaws in an effort to drive them out of the area once and for all. God is great and glory to Sudan.

Western Sahara

Polisario Ready for Direct Talks With Morocco

LD3103093390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Polisario Front is ready to start a direct dialogue with Morocco according to Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, who was the guest of yesterday evening's television program "The Event." The secretary general of the Sahrawi movement said that the main obstacle to the holding of a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara is the presence of Moroccan troops, administration, and a population thought to be, according to Abdelaziz, around 400,000 people, including 260,000 civilians. The Sahrawi leader, on the other hand, thinks Morocco has a choice between two formulas, either to hand the country over to the United Nations during the transition period, or start a dialogue with the Sahrawis to lift obstacles and reach an agreement.

Former SADR Defense Minister Arrested

LD0204141790 Rabat MAP in English 1306 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Rabat, April 2 (MAP)—Former "defence minister" of the so-called Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Ibrahim Ghali, has been arrested "after having attempted to reintegrate Morocco", Moroccan daily L'OPINIONS reported Sunday.

The daily recalled Ghali was part of the "Polasario" delegation King Hassan II had received in Marrakesh in January 1989. It said it was after this Royal audience that Ghali had apparently resolved to reintegrate Morocco.

Suspected since because of the positions he developed after the Royal audience, Ibrahim Ghali was relieved of his functions as "defence minster" after the "Polisario's" seventh congress, and assigned at the head of a military region.

Fearing a military action by Ghali, the daily added, "Polisario's" Secretary General Mohamed Abdelaziz and his right arm, Ghali's replacement Amine Ould Bouhal, had dissident Ghali under close watch. "This is how they were able to intercept Ibrahim Ghali while he was trying, along with a group of his partisans, to leave the military region for Morocco".

The daily added that after an exchange of fire "which lasted about half an hour," Ibrahim Ghali and his partisans were arrested and thrown in prison.

President Warns Israel, Criticizes U.S.

JN0204132990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Apr 90

["Full recording" of a speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony honoring the minister of defense, the minister of industry and military industrialization, and members of the Armed Forces General Command, on 1 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] God be praised for everything. God be praised because Iraq has remained safe. God be praised that with God's safety, the nation is now in a new condition. Had it not been for this outcome, or had the outcome been the opposite, things would have been very bad. Things would have been so bad that we would not be able to imagine them or picture their form.

The main pillar of this glory, at the forefront of those who built this main pillar, are the martyrs, who are more honorable than any of us. These martyrs are followed by the men who are on the level of these martyrs, despite the fact that we cannot define very clear limits for that. The men who were placed on the path of the martyrs are also on the same level of the martyrs when judged by the outcome. This is because when God Almighty spared them, he intended to realize something through his will and wisdom. Likewise, God willed that some become martyrs.

Did the attempts end when victory was realized? The central pillar of the conspiracy was certainly broken because no bigger conspiracy could be imagined. I can say this before the Iraqis because I do not tell the Iraqis anything unless it is repeatedly settled in my mind and unless my conscience is satisfied with it. Only when my conscience is satisfied with it will I tell them about it. The conspiracy, whose central pillar the Iraqis have broken, will never occur again, not in our time and not in times to come. This is the biggest conspiracy in modern history, until God might accomplish a matter already enacted [Koranic phrase]. However, the flames of fire will not end.

In the past, they tried to push the Iraqis away from the path of light but now have realized that the Iraqis have wielded the path of light and covered a distance on it. Now the attempts, as you might describe them, are attempts to place impediments. They wager on time, as the original players in the big conspiracy wagered. These players from outside the region were wagering on time, and this is one of the things with which they used to delude the Iranians and to force them to make mistakes. This forced the two countries to make sacrifices. Iraq made sacrifices and the Iranians suffered losses. From the very beginning and from their first attempts, when they started to feel the pulse and to attack, and when they were faced with the well-known resistance, it was clear to them—it was supposed to have been clear—that the time that they had in mind was not the time of this age. This time, on which they base their judgment and during which they hope to realize certain results, will not materialize.

Had they realized this, they would have spared themselves, their country, and their people many disasters and spared our country and people many sacrifices. However, God almighty wanted this to happen.

I say that hurling darts of fire at Iraq, as our people in the countryside describe them, will not cease. The main players in the past during the war used to play the game through Iran, but now, after the great result that has been realized, they find that they have no choice but to play the game themselves. The big ones, therefore, are now playing the game directly. They have found that the Iraqis have set their feet firmly on the path of light in the direction of the objectives they set for themselves. The objectives are a life of happiness and prosperity for the Iraqis and for Iraq to become a strong support for the Arab nation in defense of its rights, security, and sanctities.

Our duty here is the same as of those who carry the al-Qadisiyah Sword and take the oath of national duty you have just heard. In other words, we have a duty to defend Iraq. We must defend it without expecting any favor in return and without anyone reminding us of our duty. The nature of the current phase and the principles we uphold say that if an Arab, wherever he may be from the East to the Maghreb, is exposed to a foreign aggression, and this Arab permits us to defend his rights against a foreign occupier or usurper, it is our duty to do that. Is there anything wrong with that? Are we committing aggression against anyone by doing that? No, we are not. This is our country and Iraq's map is well known. A foreigner must not attack the Arab homeland.

We are not carrying the banner of challenge. We are not challenging anyone. But if anyone challenges us, he will find us more solid than a diamond; delicate but also firm. We cannot be trampled on. We are not pushovers. By we I mean all of us, not just this speaker. Many of you may be stronger physically, and firmer than this speaker. I will not say that you are firmer than this speaker on rights since I may not be accurate. At any rate, we are all one man as far as defending rights. God bless you, you are youthful and strong. True, some of you are stronger than I and Abu-Muthanna [referring to someone in the audience], but when it comes to fighting, each one will do his best. Fighting does not call for strong muscles, but a strong heart first and the rest depends on God. Isn't this so, [Information Minister] Latif?

We have not and we will not commit aggression against anybody, but everybody is looking at the Iraqi borders as they are now drawn. The drone which dares to approach these borders or commits aggression on Iraq, will have its sting cut off from behind and its head cut off from the front. We will leave only the middle part. If an aggression is committed against an Arab and that Arab seeks our assistance from afar, we will not fail to come to his

assistance, God willing. If they want to record this stand against Iraq, let them do so right now. We are not different from others. Was the Arab born to be trampled on by others? What injustice! Fear God. After all, who are the banner carriers? Should anyone be suprised by the Iraqis defending their borders and land? Why are the Americans and the English surprised because the Iraqis are defending their homeland and triumphing? When Baghdad was overrun [by the Tatars] in 1258 and the Iraqis were hit on the head, ending their glory, that did not represent their true state.

These are passing circumstances for Iraqis. They have to familiarize themselves with Baghdad in the times when it was the foremost radiating center in the world and they were living in caves, when some of them were gangs invading America from all corners of the globe. They set out with bands of murderers who assembled in America, but present-day America is a great nation—a great nation by material standards not by moral standards. A great person is judged by his manners. The United States is a superpower in accordance with material yardsticks. It is not a superpower in accordance with moral and ethical yardsticks. The great are great in terms of ethics, and the United States will become a superpower and enter our hearts and minds when it acts in a true ethical and legal manner. A country becomes great on the basis of its ethical leverage; that is, when it sponsors the rights of people and nations, when it defends the principles of international law, and when it defends all causes, not merely certain selected ones.

They may think that Saddam Husayn is upset by their propaganda, but I am not. However, I would like to point out to them what is right and what is wrong. The reason is that usually only a few in the world have pointed out to them what is right and what is wrong. The smallest state, no matter how small its territory or population-...[changes thought] Considering that we are a state 17 million strong—what do you think, Latif? [chuckles] Please sit down. Considering that we are a state 17 million strong and our territory is relatively small-...[changes thought] But they [word indistinct] they must not belittle our valleys. Our valleys are legion. In this good assembly chests are studded with decorations, medals, and swords. Certainly there will be more swords as called for by the recent decision when the swords [word indistinct] by the Presidential Office.

Yesterday I was talking to the minister of agriculture and repeated what I told him to the governors when they were sworn in. I told them that weakness and strength are judged by two yardsticks: right and injustice. Whom do we fear? We fear God and our people. We fear God because we are believers, thanks be to God. We fear our people when we take a route they disapprove of. In other words, we monitor our route lest we go astray and our people are alienated. We hold our people dearly. Our fear is not technical, it is humanitarian based on solidarity with our people, because we love our people. We take pains not to upset our people through anything we do. We fear only these two: God and our people. We are prepared to carry our people on our shoulders in the manner of a dutiful son carrying his parents in their old age when they are not able to move about. We carry our people on our shoulders without feeling the weight. This is to guard against a day when we may have to carry foreigners on our shoulders. Should anyone fail to carry his people, the foreigner will do the job for him.

Our carrying our people is not an invention. If anyone wants to carry someone else, he will tire quickly. He will let him down every once in a while. We learned it long ago when we were in secondary school.

If our people are at ease and we are not opposed to justice—we are not opposed to international humanitarian practices—then why should we be afraid? If the strongest force in the world confronts us with injustice, we will fight back with the old woman from the Hindiyah region. We fight back with the old woman from the Hindiyah region; the one who is 100 years old and tells Saddam Husayn not to fear, we are your right hand. Did you see her on television? She is 100 years old and has so much confidence that it makes you want to move toward the fire. One hundred years old and yet she tells Saddam Husayn not to be afraid because we are your right hand. Fear no one. Truly, truly, in faith we hope to God that we will not fear anyone but God, because our people support us in our justice.

Why are the main players so upset? Could they not have stopped the war in eight years? Do we not know that? They can stop whatever they want in weeks or even days. But they let Iraq and Iran fight for eight years. And the fighting took place on the brink of the well in which 65 percent of the world's oil reserves are found. At the brink of this well the fighting and shelling took place, while they say: no problem [preceding two words in English] as they say in English—no problem. They are the no problem people.

For eight years, they have been quite satisfied and pleased with us just to sell us weapons and bring down the price of oil. In eight years, they brought it down to seven dollars. They also brought down the dollar value for the oil-producing people so that they could get less cash, one-third the price. They played these games for eight years and just let the Iraqis fight for their rights. They would give Iraq something and then conspire to give al-Faw to Iran, though they knew that we would die rather than suffer the occupier. They conspired against us in 1986 and raised the al-Faw issue.

The great players have now entered the arena with all their might. We are not awed by them. We fear no one when right is on our side. We fear only God and that is because God is justice. Let those who want to occupy Iraq try to do it. Let them come. These are the ports of southern Iraq. Let them come and may God help them.

Let our people continue to wear the best clothes. Khaki is a nice and good color and we will continue to wear it for 1,000 years. If they do not want us to wear civilian clothing, then we will not do so. It is no problem. Our

people wear civilian clothing when they are relaxed and feel protected, with God's help.

Why are they so disturbed? The Israeli, U.S., and British intelligence services have been trying for the past five or six years to pass enriched uranium to us. They used to come to us every day and tell us: Don't you want enriched uranium to produce an atomic bomb? By God, spare us your evil. Pick up your goods and leave. We do not need an atomic bomb. We have the binary chemical [al-kimawi al-muzdawij]. Let them take note of this. We have the binary chemical. According to our information, only the United States and the Soviet Union have it. They still have not reached an agreement with respect to its disarmament. It exists in Iraq. So that the Iraqis may know, it existed during the last period of the war—I believe during the last year of the war. It was there. In spite of this, we did not use it against the Iranians. We did not use it against the Iranians. We said that the weapons we had were more than enough, and hoped that God would enable us to liberate our land without it.

Why, then, do we need the atomic bomb? Do they not know that the capacitors that are worth only $10,500 do not produce atomic bombs? Don't they know the facts? Are they not ashamed of their white hair? Is Thatcher not ashamed of her white hair? Are the others, including the Americans, not ashamed of their white hair when they talk about capacitors costing $10,500, whose use and purposes are well-known? They transformed these into nuclear trigger devices and said that Iraq now possesses nuclear bombs, which is something new to them. How can this be while you claim that you know everything that takes place in the world?

See how disturbed they are? I have told you that this is perhaps the fourth or fifth year, and some of these offers had been made to us before the war. They offered us uranium before the war, and asked us whether we wanted to purchase it. By God, we do not want uranium. What shall we do with it? The British, U.S., and Zionist intelligence sent them [nuclear trigger devices] so as to say: See, Iraq is producing a nuclear bomb. This is the policy of entrapment. When a country is in a state of war, and someone comes and says: Let me sell you... One of them said: We have a nuclear bomb if you want to purchase it. Take a country that is in a state of war and whose territory is occupied, and nuclear bombs do exist in the world. [sentence as heard] They are there and are not banned. The Americans, the Soviets, and others have it. This being the case, someone comes and tell you: I have a nuclear weapon which I want to sell you. Had the Iraqis not been wise and balanced and enjoyed a sense of responsibility, they would have told him: Give me this nuclear bomb. This is the policy of entrapment. Is this the right policy with which the real intentions of others are tested?

This is a policy which is similar to that which some security organs used to use at the beginning of the revolution when they suspected that someone was working against the revolution. They used to send some people to those whom they suspected to propose to him to join a hostile party. When I came to know about this, I told the people concerned: Should we not try to convince these people who have bad intentions to change their course with good words and not try to entrap them? Is this what the superpower's honor and sense of responsibility means, that it resorts to the method of entrapment against the other party? Thanks be to God, in spite of this entrapment method, we were not enticed by their suspicious offers. You will soon read about the details of how they have tried time and again. The issue revolves around the purchase of the capacitors from the local American market at the price of $10,500. Thanks be to God, they have nothing else on us. Each of these capacitors which they claim can produce a nuclear bomb costs only $100.

They created a big uproar about Bazoft. Therefore, the new slogan of human rights that the big powers are upholding is to protect the spies. By God, we will cut the spy who comes to Iraq into four pieces. Let those who want to listen take note of this. Those who have spies here, let them remove them [applause]. This country belongs to the Iraqis, the Arabs, and to those who enter Iraq peacefully, as friends, whether they be American, French, German, or Soviet. If they enter Iraq peacefully, we welcome them. All the doors of Iraq will be open.

But the one who comes to Iraq as a spy, thinking that he is being backed by a big power, should know that here in Iraq there are no big powers. In Iraq there are national Iraqi standards. A big power is most welcome when it is right; it is smaller than an ant when based on falsehood. This is our law. This is how we are. If they accept us, accordingly we will be their friends. If they try any other method, they will reap nothing. They will only be wasting their time for nothing at all.

We have not held out with all the Iraqis. The Iraqi Kurds have come now. Not all the Kurds of Iraq were among the good ones who fought. Now they will all fight, all the Kurds of Iraq, from one extreme end of Kurdistan to the other. I tell you most assuredly that they will all, like you, fight in defense of the land because they have discovered the extent of the defect which had to be discovered. They also discovered the right way of becoming one hand. The son of al-'Amarah and the son of al-Sulaymaniyah became one hand; the son of Irbil and the son of al-Anbar became one hand; and Iraq is for all.

Therefore, when they found that the small players could bring about no result, the major ones themselves appeared, with their image and gray hair. We want to be friends with all those who befriend us without exception. But we will not regret being unable to befriend anyone who tries to antagonize us. God willing, the Iranians will discover the facts. Now they have discovered the bitter facts. They will further discover how much they were manipulated in this war and how many life opportunities their people have missed. The one who seeks a calm and stable life for his people can do so only through peace. Peace does not cost much. The price of peace is only

having intentions for peace. The one who has a will for peace will reach peace. The peace Iraq is proposing does not contain an encroachment on rights nor an attempt to violate the rights of anyone. But it is at the same time the peace through which Iraq will not allow anyone to violate its rights—in the same way that Iraq did not allow the war to violate these rights.

They are talking about Bazoft's rights. Are the Palestinians not human beings? They are talking about Bazoft's rights while the suspect newspapers continue to write about a German scientist, claiming that he was cooperating with Iraq. [an unidentified person is heard correcting the president by telling him the scientist is Canadian, not German] He is a Canadian with U.S. nationality. Just imagine this international hypocrisy. Although you the military are aware of the target entrusted to you, it would not hurt to explain to you an aspect of this international hypocrisy. A Canadian citizen with U.S. nationality came to Iraq. He is a scientist too. He might have benefited Iraq. I do not know. They say the Iraqi intelligence service is spread in Europe—[Kamil] Husayn's industry intelligence. That is what they say. But nobody spoke about the human rights of this Canadian citizen of U.S. nationality, while there was hue and cry about Bazoft, who had no British nationality, only documents.

This Canadian...What's his name? [one of the audience calls out the name]. Whatever. This naturalized American. Is he not entitled to human rights? When he came to Iraq, they killed him. They killed him with a silencer-equipped pistol. As far as they are concerned, he was not entitled to human rights, although he was American. Why was he not entitled to human rights? This is because he was not fit to be used to promote a presidential candidate in the United States. We therefore see only that part of their extremism on human rights in which we believe and urge that they be honored anywhere in the world. But in practice, they are hypocrites. They are using it as a slogan for neo-imperialism, for meddling in the internal affairs of others.

The U.S. intelligence services have not bothered to uncover the murderer of this American scientist. But they create a fuss about other things. Why did the English not remember human rights when they partitioned Palestine and led us to this result? Only now do they remember human rights—regarding the spy Bazoft. The English have not spared a nation on earth from their problems. They charted maps and left things unsettled to create problems. Only Bazoft is a human being. They see Bazoft as a human being. But when Bazoft passes intelligence to the Zionist entity in order for it to accurately hit a plant and kill maybe 200 or 300 people.... These do not count as human beings. Only Bazoft is a human being, and the 17 million have no right to defend themselves.

Look, Iraqis and Arabs, look at how you are regarded. You are not considered human beings. Only their agents and spies are looked upon as humans. According to them, they are more entitled to rights than an entire people or nation. Let losers be disappointed. If some imagine that this clamor will intimidate us, an old woman in al-Hindiyah told us not to worry. When they convince the 100-year-old woman in al-Hindiyah and the 100-year-old man in Ninawa that we will be afraid, then we may debate the question. So let's forget about fear. How can an official feel fear? It's a shame. An official may be cautious and be on his guard, but at the same time he will keep in mind his people's and country's dignity. He will remember that a 100-year-old woman of his people—one among tens of thousands her age, aside from the younger people—tells Saddam Husayn not to worry. Never worry, Saddam Husayn, we are your support. If 100-year-olds tell Saddam Husayn not to worry, is there anyone left who will be afraid? How then shall we feel fear? They will be deluded if they imagine that they can give Israel a cover in order to come and strike at some industrial metalworks. By God, we will make fire eat up half of Israel if it tried against Iraq.

Everyone must know his limits. Thanks be to God, we know our limits and we will not attack anyone. Neither will we become conceited or forget our humanitarian responsibility, or our national and pan-Arab responsibilities. However, the others must also not forget their humanitarian responsibilities. Anyone who tries to belittle Iraq—and we will not say any more than what we have said—will have only himself to blame. This time we will deal with them in this way.

With God's help and with the courage of Iraqis—and when I say Iraqis, I mean Iraqi men and women, old and young—all eyes are open. Thanks be to God, He gave the Iraqis clever minds, with which to think well. And when we go to sleep, we sleep with one eye open.

In 1981, I made a speech someplace. The speech was recorded, and the media can refer to it. I told Israel that we know that you want to prolong this war, but the day will come when you will feel sorry for prolonging this war. I said something like that; I cannot remember very well. Did we want this war, did we want it to go on for so long? They made it, they prolonged it, and they are sorry for its results. What can we do? We are a people who want to live in dignity, and who have the right to live in dignity.

They learned their first lessons in humanity and science from Baghdad. All of their discoveries, which they are proud of now and which they deny the Arabs—particularly the Arabs—and Iraq the right of benefiting from in the international and humanitarian sciences, they have learned all this, and the first lesson in science, from Baghdad. Do people with a 6,000-year-old and deep-rooted civilization have the right to live in dignity? Yes, they have the right to live in dignity.

O God, stop the excessiveness of the reckless and unjust people. We will say no more than what our forefathers have said: Give us a strong back, not a light weight. With God's grace the Iraqis will cling to the rays of sun and

light wherever there is sun. No power on earth can make them let go of the rays of sunlight or the decent, dignified, calm, and proud life.

Convey my greetings, greetings of men, to all men in the Armed Forces, and to all men in the regiments of national security from Kurdistan to al-Faw. Thank you, brothers.

INA Reports President's Remarks

JN0204112990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the main players in the past during the war used to play the game through Iran, but now after the great outcome of that war they found that they had no choice but to play the game themselves. The big ones are now playing the game directly after they have noticed that the Iraqis have set their foot firmly on the course of light in the direction of objectives they have set for themselves. So whoever wants to occupy Iraq let him come forward. Here are its ports in southern Iraq. Let him come forward and may God help him.

Speaking at a ceremony honoring several members of the General Command of the Armed Forces and a group of fighters by bestowing on them al-Qadisiyah Swords, al-Rafidayn Medals, and Medals of Valor, his excellency said: We are not carrying the banner of challenge. We are not defying anyone. But if anyone challenges us, he will find us stronger than a diamond; delicate but also solid. We will not be trampled upon. We are not pushovers.

The president affirmed: We do not need an atomic bomb. We have the binary chemical [al-kimawi al-muzdawij]. Whoever threatens us with the atomic bomb, we will annihilate him with the binary chemical. For the information of the Iraqis, we had the binary chemical toward the end of the war, or during the last year of the war.

Regarding the uproar which was created by Western and Zionist circles over the purchase of capacitors, the president said: The subject about which they are creating this uproar is the purchase of capacitors from the local American market at the price of $10,500. The price of each unit is $100. They say that these units create the atomic bomb. Do these capacitors indeed create the atomic bomb? Don't they know the facts? Are they not ashamed of their white hair? Is Thatcher not ashamed of her white hair? Are the others, including the Americans, not ashamed of their white hair when they speak about capacitors costing $10,500 and whose use and purposes are well-known?

The president warned them by saying: If they ever imagine that they are giving Israel the cover to strike some industrial "metalworks" they are mistaken. Because, by God we will make the fire eat up half of Israel if it tries to do anything against Iraq.

Referring to the role played by our Kurdish people in defense of great Iraq, the president added that Iraq will fight them [as received] with all the sons of the people, including the sons of our Kurdish people. This time we will approach them with this language with God's help and the courage of the Iraqis. They will be fought by all the Kurds of Iraq from one extreme end of Kurdistan to the other.

UK, U.S. Said 'Distorting Iraq's Reputation'

JN0204153090 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 2, INA—An Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman today charged the British authorities of once more cooperating with American authorities in launching a suspicious drive of falsifications with the object of distorting Iraq's reputation and providing justifications for aggression on it. In a statement here today, the spokesman said that with this campaign a direct and clear service was made for the Zionist designs for aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation. The spokesman added that we preferred to wait for few days until all chapters of this suspicious campaign in the American and British mass media were disclosed so that the Arab and world public opinion become aware of all facts.

The spokesman said that this fabricated campaign originated from nothing more than a small and normal contract between an Iraqi establishment and a British trade company for securing materials for the uses of the Iraqi technological university for pure scientific purposes. The contract valued only 10,500 dollars.

The spokesman added that American authorities in cooperation with the British ones, as admitted by the said quarters, slipped on purpose an agent from the F.B.I. In the American company that supply those materials under the pretext of being director of the purchases to make this small and normal deal a suspicious intelligence matter and with the object of fabricating an accusation to the aim that Iraq endeavoured to acquire equipment for nuclear use from the American market. The spokesman further said that Iraqi concerned quarters did not deal with those attempts and objected them because the Iraqi authorities originally were desiring to acquire materials for scientific uses.

He further added that what confirms the pre-meditated and ill-intention of the design were the open correspondences addressed by the F.B.I agent who assumed the position of purchases director in the American supplying company to Iraqi quarters and in which he offered, not in response to Iraqi quarters, the selling of materials for nuclear uses in an open method that undoubtedly meant an involvement.

He further pointed out that everybody is aware that all telephone and telex contacts between the United States and abroad were subject to a continued and advanced electronic scrutiny from the American National Security Agency. The spokesman questioned how could a purchases director at an American company offer equipment for nuclear uses through an open telex unless the matter was originally designed and planned by American security circles?

The spokesman added that American and British authorities directed the operation through statements issued in a manner of accusing Iraq.... This accusation should be

addressed to the authorities themselves for their planning to hatch this design of involvement and for disreputing Iraq. The spokesman added that realities linked with this operation could not be isolated from the continued an organized slanderous campaign which is after harming Iraq's reputation and paving the way for an aggression on it and on its industrial and scientific establishments.

He further said that it could not be also isolated from the case of the spy Bazoft and the suspicious and feverish fabricated campaign instigated by British information and official quarters and the Western and American information quarters inspired by Zionism.

The spokesman added that objective of this campaign was after besieging Iraq and banning it with all means from carrying on its natural right in scientific progress and acquiring technology and consequently carrying out an aggression on it.... Iraq is not only the target but rather the entire Arab nation. The spokesman further said that design of Zionist and imperialist circles was after keeping the Israeli superiority on the entire Arabs and the final result was perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab land and the Israeli Western hegemony on the region and also liquidating rights of the Palestinian Arab people and their just cause.

The spokesman further said that Iraq had behaved legitimately in its resolve for obtaining technological and scientific progress in accordance with the international law and norms of dealing among countries and within the frame of a good-intentioned and aware policy.

The spokesman recalled that Iraq was one of the parties of the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (MPT) [as received] and was committed to it adding that the Atomic Energy Agency makes regular visits to Iraqi installations. On the contrary, Israel did not sign this treaty, and rejects signing it despite repeated resolutions of the United Nations and others calling for that. The spokesman further said that all reports including the American and Western ones confirm that Israel possesses nuclear weapons without instigating any row on it from those who are shedding tears on the security in the region... and like the furore aroused against Iraq on an affair planned by them.

The spokesman stressed that Iraq and the Arab nation would not submit to the continued attempts of pressure and blackmail and would continue its natural right for progress.... Iraq is fully aware of the relationship between these suspicious information drives and attempts with designs aiming at hatching up an aggression on it. The spokesman added that Iraq is fully vigilant of these attempts and those who are planning aggression should understand that Iraq has the will and possesses the means that enable it to retaliate on aggression and teach the aggressors a telling lesson.

An explanation attached to the statement of the foreign ministry spokesman said that in response to the need of the technological university in Baghdad for supplying the laser energy system (CO2), the Ministry of Industry contacted various companies for supplying it with high voltage capacitors for their use in this system. An offer by the British company Euromac was accepted in May 1989 for obtaining 85 capacitors at a total cost of 10,500 dollar. These capacitors are of multi-industrial and scientific uses in addition to the claimed possibility of using them as triggers and the certificate of the beneficiary party confirmed that use of these capacitors were for the laser system CO2.

The explanation stressed that Iraq did not violate any contract or regulations as concern the export of prohibited commodities or materials and it has met all its obligations by signing the final user certificate and providing the supplier with all technical information.

It added that it was clear when reviewing cables of the American supplier company CSI that American official authorities were on purpose carried out an attempt that was aborted by the Iraqi side for placing it in an illegal position. [sentence as received] The explanation cited a telex by CSI American company on having a meeting with iraqi specialists in London where the specialists stressed the specifications of the required materials and that Mr Saunders, who assumed the capacity of purchases director of the company and "entrusted by the (FBI)" insisted during the meeting on asking about the need of other materials like triggers used for nuclear explosion equipment.

The explanation quoted a telex by Saunders as saying "I personally may offer in addition to the CSI capacitors, my offer still stands as before, but I do agree with the president of CSI that our protection and safety from exposure to US authorities is our concern."

The explanation said that the Iraqi side was astonished over contents of the telex and expressed its protest to the supplier by a telephone contact. It added that when CSI company did not receive any reply from the Iraqi side and knew that its attempt was neglected it sent another cable on 22nd last January and was related to the question of the capacitors as included in the request. But the company referred that cable to an offer of other (equipment) with a warning of being discovered by American authorities.

Spokesman: Trigger Devices for 'Laser Technology'

JN0204160890 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 2, INA—Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Mr. Nizar Hamdun on Sunday [1 April] denied that his government was producing nuclear weapons and said Baghdad intended to use U.S.-made high-voltage capacitors confiscated in Britain for laser technology.

"My government was not involved in getting any detonators the way they are suggesting," Mr. Hamdun told the CBS television network in reference to a British-led anti-Iraq propaganda campaign alleging that Iraq has smuggled U.S.-manufactured nuclear triggers via Britain.

"Iraq was interested in getting the high-velocity rubber high-voltage capacitors which have many applications in

laser and other industrial fields," REUTER quoted Mr. Hamdun as telling the CBS. "We were not involved in any nuclear weapon discussion: My government's position is that Iraq has neither the capability nor the wish to produce nuclear weapons."

Mr. Hamdun denied allegations that the high-velocity detonators made to specifications requested by Iraq could be used only in atomic bombs but acknowledged they could be used for launching missiles. He said Iraq was interested in a comprehensive arms treaty in the Middle East that would cover long-range missiles and nuclear weapons. "But we don't like to be dealt with selectively on this or that weapon because we think all mass destruction weapons should be eliminated," he said.

Former assistant secretary of state Richard Murphy said Washington should look "very carefully" at Iraq's interest in a comprehensive arms agreement. "I think we need to devote more energy to that," he said.

Iraq's Osiraq [Tammuz] peaceful nuclear reactor was destroyed in a 1981 Israeli air raid. Hamdun warned Iraq would retaliate for any such recurring attack. "Iraq would always have the right to retaliate... We have I think the right to do that under international law," he said.

In a related development, Iraq's Ministry of Industry stressed that the alleged nuclear weapon triggers which British authorities claimed to have seized at London's Heathrow Airport were no more than electric condensors of the kind used in industry and scientific research. A ministry spokesman was quoted by Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS International in its Saturday issue as saying that Iraq had signed a contract to purchase electric condensors from a British firm. The contract was signed with the British firm through proper channels, the spokesman said. He said Iraq has the right to the transfer of technology as is the case with all other countries.

The Kuwaiti daily said that a long-term and carefully-planned anti-Iraq campaign has been hatched to pave for an aggression against Iraq similar to Israel's raid on Iraq's peaceful nuclear reactor in June 1981. The daily referred in particular to articles written by a British journalist identified as Alan George in various British and European papers. In his articles George inserts allegations about Iraqi military industry and about foreign firms with which Iraq deals.

Al-QABAS international said that the British Foreign Office had summoned the Iraqi ambassador in London to enquire about an article alleging Iraqi-Argentine cooperation to manufacture Condor missiles. Al-QABAS quoted sources in London as saying the anti-Iraq campaign was aimed at intimidating foreign firms and making them refrain from dealing with Iraq.

The British journalist had focused in his recent articles on Belgian S.R.C. firm and its president Dr. Gerard Paul, who AL-QABAS said, had been accused of cooperating with Iraqi military industry. Dr. Paul was recently assassinated just outside his home, but the British media chose to ignore the incident and imposed a blackout on the murder so as not to be linked with the articles written by Alan George, said AL-QABAS.

AL-QABAS added that the London-based MIDDLE EAST magazine published an article on Iraqi military industry, with a lot of fabrication about Iraqi missile industry and foreign firms allegedly cooperating with Iraq. AL-QABAS noted that the British magazine did not mention a source for its story. AL-QABAS said that if the information published by the MIDDLE EAST had been true it would have taken a whole "intelligence unit" to piece together. The paper added that the British Government was using the same method in official line in dealing with Iraq. "The British-fabricated story on nuclear weapon triggers confiscated at Heathrow Airport is naive. The devices seized were no more than electric condensors which are used in industrial and research fields," the paper said.

Baghdad Asks For 'Emergency' Arab League Session

JN0204213090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Republic of Iraq has submitted an official urgent memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat in which it asks for an emergency session of the Arab League Council to convene at the permanent representatives level in order to discuss the dangers of the continuation and escalation of the current onslaught to which Iraq is being subjected at this stage and to take an Arab stand in solidarity against this campaign and the aggressive plans behind it. Immediately after receiving the Iraqi request, the Arab League General Secretariat began discussions with the member states to set a date for the convening of the session.

The Arab League Council held an extraordinary session on 26 March on the permanent representatives level during which it stressed its complete solidarity with the Republic of Iraq in the face of the British Government's campaign following the sentence issued by the Iraqi judiciary against spy Farzad Bazoft after he was convicted of spying on Iraq.

Government Officials Speak Out on Saddam Speech

Prime Minister Comments

TA0204174490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Saddam Husayn's declaration again exposes the fundamental truth underlying the Middle East situation: an extreme hostility toward Israel and a desire to annihilate it. This was stated this evening by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Shamir pointed out that while the winds of peace are blowing in the rest of the world, extremely severe threats are being voiced in the Middle East. Israel strives for peace, but has always known how to defend itself. There is no doubt that in the future it will know how to defend itself and abort its enemies' plots, added the prime minister. His remarks were reported by our political correspondent Natan Gutman.

More on Shamir's Reaction

TA0304104190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel is not frightened off by threats, such as those made yesterday by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. In remarks to a delegation from the Swiss Parliament, the prime minister expressed disappointment with the inadequate response of the international community to the extremist and threatening remarks by the Iraqi president. It is possible that the reason for this is the apathy the world showed in the past towards the use of poison gases by Iraq, Mr. Shamir said.

Foreign Ministry Reacts 'Sharply'

TA0204162090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Israel has reacted sharply to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's speech. The Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Iraq's boastfulness over the lethal chemical weapons it possesses and its bragging over its ability to commit crimes against humanity, as it has done even against its own citizens, are all reminders of the real threat Israel faces. The communique further states that the civilized world should take action to prevent Saddam Husayn from carrying out his criminal schemes.

Saddam Husayn again talks about annihilating Israel instead of talking of peace. Israel, however, will know how to defend itself in the future, as it has always done in the past.

Rabin Calls Speech 'Provocative'

TA0304050790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good evening, former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and our listeners.

[Zissowitz] Perhaps you can elucidate to us something about the timing of the Saddam Husayn speech or the fact that for the first time after the long war with Iran, he admits that he has chemical weapons.

[Rabin] First of all, it is a good thing that at times of internal dissension and infighting, we get a reminder of the true problems—certainly in the sphere of security—which are still pertinent and which apply to Israel and to all of us.

The timing of this speech has to do with various reports both in THE NEW YORK TIMES and other places that exposed the attempt to smuggle the triggers which the Iraqi president mentioned. His speech was arrogant and boastful, and in fact is a protest against the entire world, including the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union. Naturally, it is first and foremost provocative to Israel. His remarks express fear of and concern with Israel's capability.

[Zissowitz] Saddam Husayn has already used chemical weapons.

[Rabin] At the same time I believe he wished to remind Israel in particular that 1990 is different from 1981. In 1981, when the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad was bombed, Iraq was embroiled in war against Iran and experienced great distress, lacking the long military arm of surface-to-surface missiles, advanced chemical weapons, or modern fighter bombers. At the same time, it is impossible to ignore the serious, conceited, and vain threat against Israel.

[Zissowitz] How do you assess Saddam's declaration that he does not need nuclear weapons because he has chemical weapons?

[Rabin] This is because he knows that he does not possess nuclear weapons at the moment, because he is trying to say, and emphasize, that the threat still prevails should Israel be the first to engage in an offensive—although I would not suggest that anyone take this information at face value and or as an exclusive source—and that he has an answer that is superior to the capability he manifested about three years ago when he launched approximately 200 surface-to-surface missiles against Tehran and other cities in Iran. In other words, he wants to show that he has more effective weapons. From Israel's standpoint, it would be wrong to underestimate these threats. We should, nevertheless, bear in mind that we have the capability to provide a response far more lethal than Saddam Husayn's threats. I would advise him to refrain from provoking Israel.

Israel is strong and powerful, and Iraq is not outside the range from which Israel can deal it a serious blow. Therefore, this should be taken into account. At the same time, it should be known that we have the appropriate

answer to these threats and that Saddam Husayn would be well advised not to provoke Israel.

[Zissowitz] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin, what is the national assessment of Iraq's ability to attack the civilian population? He mentioned half of Israel's population.

[Rabin] I think this is nonsense. I am not ruling out the possibility that he has the ability to launch surface-to-surface missiles from Iraq toward Israel. Anyone capable of launching such missiles at Tehran is likewise capable of launching them against Israel from Iraqi territory. This is nothing new. We have known about this capability for a number of years now. The defense establishment and the Israel Defense Forces are prepared for such a possibility. I can envision no danger that Iraq would deal such a severe blow as Saddam Husayn boasts; certainly the Israeli reaction would be far more lethal than what he brags he could do to Israel.

[Zissowitz] Are we prepared for the possibility that the civilian population might be attacked?

[Rabin] As is well known, for nearly every civilian individual in Israel, we have a personal survival kit to protect that individual against chemical weapons. The equipment is stored in depots all over the country. When I was defense minister, we saw no need to distribute these kits to everyone, although in the past year we tried to distribute them to individuals in certain regions to study the individual's, or the family's, ability to store these items. The results of the study, based on that experience, will be reviewed and implemented.

I am not ignoring this danger, but I believe that our defensive capability can prevent a serious event.

[Zissowitz] Knesset member Yitzhaq Rabin, former defense minister, thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Arens on U.S. Reaction

TA0304054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] What sort of impact do Saddam Husayn's threats have on you and the Israeli Government?

[Arens] The threats are directed at each and every Israeli. In fact, when unconventional weapons are in the hands of someone like Saddam Husayn—who, by the way, has proved that he does more than talk—I would say that the entire world is threatened. He has already waged chemical warfare on a massive scale.

[Qital] Against Iran.

[Arens] Not only against Iran, but also against Kurdish civilians. This is a threat against the whole world, and I hope it serves as a warning to the world which ignored the issue, despite the fact that the Iraqi leader has already used chemical warfare on such a large scale. The inaction was a grave mistake, not only with regard to Israel, but for the entire world.

[Qital] You say it is a threat against the entire world, which is true, but as far as Israel's policy is concerned, are you trying to hint that you and the Israeli Government will try to mobilize international support against Saddam Husayn?

[Arens] We are certainly trying to do so. His boastful remarks—which serve to remind us with whom we are dealing —might have one positive outcome: to enable us to direct the attention of the superpowers to where the real threat lies. We just heard that they are worried about settlements and various other things.

[Qital] That is really the point. Are you not worried about the United States' lukewarm and balanced reaction?

[Arens] This morning I am certainly concerned when they say: We will check whether he really said those things. We saw him on television, and I suppose that with modern technology this also reached Washington, not only Israel.

[Qital] What about the settlement issue itself, which the United States was quick to denounce? Is it correct or not?

[Arens] No new decisions were made by the Israeli Government, but each time somebody says settlements are an obstacle to peace—and this is sometimes said by people who have never been here and who have never seen a kibbutz, a moshav, or a settlement either in Samaria or in the Sharon—are in fact saying that a Jewish presence in this or that place in Jerusalem or Samaria is an obstacle to peace.

[Qital] But this is one of the old disputes between Israel and the United States.

[Arens] Of course, it is an old argument, but justice is entirely on our side.

[Qital] Let us return to the Saddam Husayn issue. We heard remarks by Mikha'el Deqel, who is an aide to the defense minister and a member of your political party, that Israel is perhaps apathetic and is not doing enough to prepare for such a danger. Whether Saddam Husayn is crazy or not, should we not always be prepared?

[Arens] I am not prepared to discuss this issue this morning. Several years have passed since I was defense minister, and I do not have all the information, but of course we must be on the alert and be prepared for

anything, although I would not say that we face an immediate danger at this very minute.

[Qital] What does your ministry plan to do this morning about those threats within the context of the international activity you hinted at?

[Arens] We will operate in all friendly countries in order to draw their attention to the existing danger, which by the way does not only come from Iraq. The Iraqi dictator is making loud noises which enable the entire world to hear him, but Syria also has chemical warfare capability and, as the entire world knows, Libya also has such a capability.

[Qital] To conclude, Minister Arens, although we are not discussing internal politics this morning, one general question which touches on this issue: In the past there were times when a security danger united the country. Can that happen now?

[Arens] I do not think that Saddam Husayn's remarks will change the political situation in Israel. I also do not think that they are the type of thing that should influence the situation in Israel. Mr. Peres has another week to succeed in his efforts to set up a government. I do not believe he will do so. The entire process of toppling the government was based on manipulations, an attempt to win over renegades and parties from one side to the other. I do not believe that can succeed. Of the 21 days Peres has been allotted, another week is left. I assume that the task will be given to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and I believe he will set up a government.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Differences With Panama 'Ironed Out' in Meeting

TA3103181690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Israel and Panama have ironed out their differences in a meeting between Guillermo Ford, the Panamanian vice president, and Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington. It was agreed that Israel would extend agricultural and health aid to Panama. It seems that the Americans will finance this assistance.

Official Denies Decision on Five New Settlements

TA0304063990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of the prime minister's bureau, has said that no new decision has been made in recent days on the establishment of five new settlements. He told our political correspondent, Arye Golan, that Israel's settlement policy is based on the coalition agreement of November 1988, which accounts for the establishment of eight settlements. He pointed out that those settlements, that were decided on but which have not yet been set up, will be built some time in the future, when it is feasible from the economic and other viewpoints.

The U.S. State Department spokeswomen last night criticized the establishment of settlements and said they are an obstacle to peace.

Ja'ja' on Recognition of Al-Hirawi, Al-Ta'if Accord

NC0304075090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In a radio interview, parts of which were published in today's newspapers, Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said that the solution lies in the recognition of Ilyas al-Hirawi as president of the republic and in using the al-Ta'if agreement as an approach to a solution, despite the Lebanese Forces' earlier comments about the agreement and their demand that it be amended.

'Sources' Cited on Status of Hostage Talks

PM0204155490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Captors of Western Hostages: Whoever Seeks Help From Iran Must Pay the Price"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources close to the captors of Western hostages in Lebanon have said that the hostages file is actually open, amid positive signs, but decisive progress still depends on the readiness of the states concerned to make the decisions which will help secure their release. The sources added that some quarters' eagerness to deal with this issue as a mere humanitarian question does not help the efforts being made through several channels to secure the hostages' release. The sources emphasized that the question is basically political and must be resolved by broaching the real causes. The sources admitted that the hostages' release may require protracted negotiations. The sources ruled out their release in one go, since good intentions and commitment to an agreement must be ascertained.

The sources said that contacts concerning the hostages have never stopped completely at any stage. When governments stopped talks for internal reasons or pressures, the matter was dealt with almost immediately through mediators who sometimes falsely denied their possession of official authorization.

The sources denied that discussion of the hostage issue is faltering owing to internal quarrels in Iran, saying that such talk is inaccurate because the existence of differences does not imply an inability to make decisions.

The sources refused to reveal the outcome of the frequent visits which Mahmud Hashemi Rafsanjani, brother of the Iranian president, made recently to Beirut and during which he held a series of meetings in the Lebanese capital and al-Biqa' with the hostages' captors.

The sources believe that Damascus will eventually play some role in the matter of the hostages' release, but the decision depends first and last on Tehran's approval. The sources added that "the hostage issue was among the notable issues which Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' discussed during his recent visit to Tehran. During the visit he handed President Hashemi Rafsanjani a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad."

REUTER yesterday quoted Subhi al-Tufayli, secretary general of the so-called Hizballah, as saying that Iran can use its influence in Lebanon in favor of some hostages, but whoever wants to use that influence must pay a price for it. [passage omitted]

Junblatt on Christian Emigration, Economic Situation

NC0304100890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has said that there are indications of a plan to force all Christians of the Levant to emigrate. Junblatt said: I warned against this trend when arms were provided to the eastern area from certain Arab ports. Regrettably, the signs about which I warned have begun to appear in Egypt and other countries.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-LIWA' today, Junblatt said: I believe that Jews along with Arab stupidity are behind this plan to drive the Christians to emigrate. The Arabs have no planning and only Syria is trying to find a solution to break the impasse. President Hafiz al-Asad's speech on 8 March was a warning to the Arabs, but no one heeded it.

Regarding the government, Junblatt said: If the government persists in spending at the current rate, I believe that we will reach bankruptcy. Finance Minister al-Khalil is very worried, because the public debt is increasing while government income is declining. Some or even all ministers have not yet recognized the seriousness of the economic situation. He said that the government is weak because its structure was weak and because it was formed on the assumption that Michel 'Awn would step down. When he refused to step down and the Syrian Army moved to carry out a so-called decisive operation, the United States and Israel issued warnings and eveything came to a halt.

Asked about national action, Junblatt said there is no longer any national movement, because the overall national exhaustion is complete and there is no longer any national movement to talk about.

Regarding a unified political stance to confront the situation in the eastern area, Junblatt said: No one can comprehend what is going on, because everyone is concerned with protecting himself in his area or within his party. This is very regrettable. He added: What can our poor people, who are restricted and dominated by certain economic, political, and militia mafias, do?

Fadlallah, Al-Tufayli Hold Talks in Beirut

PM0204144890 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3 Apr 90 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Lakhdar Ibrahim's Talks With Hizballah Officials"]

[Text] The talks which Ambassador Lakhdar Ibrahimi held in Beirut with both Shaykh Muhammad Husayn

Fadlallah and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli were the first of their kind between a representative of the tripartite standing committee in Lebanon and Hizballah officials.

Informed sources in West Beirut have said that the talks were positive and that Fadlallah and al-Tufayli found the meeting an opportunity to explain their position on the al-Ta'if agreement, which they said they back because it rebuilds the state and establishes a balance among the Lebanese groups on new foundations.

According to the sources, Fadlallah and Al-Tufayli pointed out that the war between Amal and Hizballah was not the result of that agreement, since relations between the two sides had already been tense. The solution can only be achieved through a comprehensive settlement whereby the militias would be disbanded and the legitimate forces would be deployed in the areas of tension in Beirut and the south.

Hezbollah Clergyman Calls for Muslim Unity

LD0204183490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Shaykh Mohammad Miqdad, a Lebanese Hezbollah clergyman, termed efforts to disrupt the Islamic resistance in Lebanon as a conspiracy by compromisers and treacherous Arab elements to serve global arrogance in the Middle East region. Shaykh Miqdad, attending ceremonies commemorating one of the martyrs of the Islamic resistance, staged by the Hezbollah in southern Beirut, called for the continuation of the anti-Zionist resistance of Muslim revolutionaries. Shaykh Miqdad, in conclusion, pointing to the skirmishes between the Amal and the revolutionary Hezbollah movement, emphasized the need to find a radical solution to silence the fire of sedition among the two sides in Iqlim al-Tuffah, in Beirut, and in West Al-Biqa in Lebanon, and called on all freedom-seeking forces to continue their combat against the Zionist enemy.

British Embassy Sections Closed Because of Fire

NC0304080090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The British Embassy in Beirut announced yesterday that the activities of the visa, consular, and trade sections have been suspended because of a fire at the embassy offices in Jall al-Dib. A statement issued by the embassy says that the three sections have been closed until further notice and that any inquiries involving these sections should be addressed to other British missions outside Lebanon.

Resistance Attacks Israeli, Militia Patrol

NC0204121890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] This morning National Resistance men detonated a mine as a patrol of the occupation forces and their agents passed near Bayt Yahun village in the central sector in the south. An agent militia member was killed, and another was wounded. The occupation forces and their militias immediately raked the area and mounted campaigns to search for those who carried out this operation.

Sources Say Syria Seeks 'Diplomatic Parity'

JN0204170190 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 1 Apr 90 p 1

[From Ra'id al-Khammar in Damascus]

[Text] Reaching the conviction that in light of new world developments it is virtually if not absolutely, impossible to achieve strategic and military parity with Israel, Syria is currently seeking to achieve "diplomatic parity" with Israel, informed political sources in Damascus told AL-QABAS.

After detailed study of Syrian political trends in light of world changes and regional developments, the sources said the Syrians do not object to the "philosophy of the settlement" of the Arab-Israeli conflict, knowing as they do that a new war will lead to more than one catastrophe in the region.

The current question in Damascus' higher political circles is: "If achieving strategic parity is not possible, then why should efforts not be intensified to achieve diplomatic parity?"

According to the same sources, the Syrians are focusing on this kind on parity "and perhaps through coordination with the Soviets, who advised the Syrians to disregard their special plan of achieving strategic parity, because this is absolutely impossible."

The sources say that the practical application of the new trend in Syrian policy is a settlement through which the occupied Golan Heights is regained, provided that it be a demilitarized zone.

Since 1967, Israel's excuse has been that this high rocky wall poses a great threat to the northern region, which is densely populated and bustling with agricultural and industrial projects. This being the case, it was inevitable to hold onto this wall to protect the northern region. Now, however, the Syrians, who cannot stand alone in the face of world changes, are ready to establish the "white plateau"—a plateau free even of police billy clubs. What matters is the return of the land, but, of course, in a manner that does not harm Syrian sovereignty by any means.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that "the idea of abandoning the Golan never occurs to anyone"—which foils any chance for a settlement—the sources said that U.S. diplomats informed Damascus and a number of Arab capitals that "the situation in Israel must move in the direction adopted by the Likud leader." Washington emissaries added to this assertion that "the Arabs will lose when they resort to the military option, and will not lose when they resort to the diplomatic option."

Commenting on these reports, several European diplomats in Damascus told AL-QABAS that if Washington can push things in Israel toward forming a "peace government," then the peace process will witness a dramatic change with Syria joining this process. The Americans believe that "the Syrians can, whenever they want, obstruct the U.S. diplomatic machine. This being the case, it is better to benefit from the positive aspect of Syrian weakness instead of playing up the negative aspect."

Paper Says Arabs Hold Keys to Mideast Peace

JN0204173790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0844 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, 2 Apr (SANA)—In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says Arab existence is in real danger because of the current Zionist onslaught represented by immigration and settlement. This danger, the paper adds, is further aggravated by the clear U.S. support for immigration and current Arab inability for confrontation.

Referring to the main features of today's world and the continuing changes, AL-BA'TH says: These features may have given the U.S. Administration the impression that it can unilaterally adopt open stands that are clearly hostile to the Arabs and completely biased toward the Zionist enemy.

The paper affirms that the United States is not offering anything new concerning the Arab cause or the issue of peace in the region because successive U.S. Administrations in the White House have always vied with each another over supporting the enemy, which proves that U.S. decisionmaking is subject to the Zionist enemy and Israel, which has been planted in the heart of the Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: Yet, some Arabs are still betting on Washington as if it held the keys to Middle East peace. These keys are in our hands, but we do not know how to make the best use of them. The U.S. Administration's hostile positions toward our issues and nation demand confrontational stands—not this submission, surrender, and negligence which have reached unbelievable levels.

The paper believes that Arab divisions may have prompted the present U.S. position. This, it says, is to be expected not only from Washington, but also from the Zionist enemy as long as its decision is made in Tel Aviv and announced in the U.S. White House.

AL-BA'TH concludes: We are not beating war drums, but simply calling for caution, awareness, and an Arab stand compatible with the gravity of the danger. We are confident of the Arabs' ability to adopt such a stand, but we wonder: How long should we wait and stand by as spectators?

Regaining Jerusalem, Golan by Force Urged

JN3103080790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "The Return to the Roots: Jerusalem Before the Golan and Palestine Before Them," AL-THAWRAH says: In an unprecedented step in contemporary history, the U.S. Congress has decided that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and allocated the necessary funds to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel. All this is in harmony with the international changes as though Jerusalem were Boston, Seattle, a New York district, or any American state. The U.S. Congress is giving a capital to Israel in a resolution that lacks logic, ethics, and international right in order to entrench the international changes. It is also as though the Arabs are refusing to submit; they are uncivilized and backward and cannot adjust themselves to the current changes. The same thing is taking place in the dialogue being prepared now, whether on the basis of the Baker plan for settlement or coveting the generosity Peres is showing toward the Palestinians. In light of these stands, the Arabs will therefore find themselves without cause, rights, or land.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Is it not enough to be driven by the illusions of settlement and capitulation? We must work earnestly and invest the international changes in the interest of our just causes. Within this framework, we should affirm that the Golan, which was occupied by force, can only be regained and liberated by force and that Jerusalem, which was occupied by force, can only be regained and liberated by force. The same thing applies to all Palestine: Jerusalem before the Golan, and Palestine before Jerusalem and the Golan.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Several years ago, leader al-Asad said: We will work to make the Golan the center of Syria, because Palestine is the southern part of Syria. These are the roots to which we should return; they are the constants of Arab struggle in an age in which we are in dire need of constants and concern for sanctities.

New U.S. Positions Called 'Same Old Stand'

JN0104092290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the new U.S. positions which do not serve the cause of peace in the region, indicating that the host of positions set forth by the U.S. Administration in less than a week unequivocally show that Washington has continued to maintain its same old stand on the regional conflict and to reject everything rejected by Israel despite the high degree of Arab flexibility.

AL-BA'TH adds: By its constant bias in favor of Israel, the U.S. Administration is no longer covertly supporting Israel to help it implement its hostile policy. No, the U.S. Administration has openly begun to defy world public opinion and the Arab nation.

Concluding its editorial, the paper wonders: Should not the Arabs adopt a clear stand to confirm their effectiveness and to save what can be saved before it is too late, particularly that the new U.S. positions cannot serve the cause of security and peace in the region? Rather, the opposite is true.

U.S. Role in Regional Peace Process Questioned

JN0104101990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN ponders the meaning of Washington's claim of playing a basic role in establishing peace in the region while its stands foreshadow the destruction of peace.

This comes within a comment published by the newsaper on the content of the message sent by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to one of the Congress members who support Israel, in which Baker asserted that the Jews can live in the Arab part of Jerusalem.

TISHRIN notes that the content of the message revokes previous statements made by President Bush which were described at the time as "decisive" because they expressed the U.S. Administration's objection to settlement in Arab Jerusalem and asserted that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab territories.

The paper also reveals other aspects of the U.S. stands toward the current developments in the region, among which are blessing Jewish settlement, providing funds for Israel to absorb the new emigrants, and endeavoring ceaselessly to annul the UN resolution which equates Zionism and racism.

The newspaper asserts that the U.S. Administration behaves as if Arab territories were without an owner and Washington can distribute them for free to Jews who have no connection with the region and are totally alien to it.

The newspaper adds: The United States is blessing Zionism which left hundreds of thousands of Arabs killed, injured, maimed, and homeless. Furthermore, Washington did not place Israel on the terrorist list. Instead, it has placed the countries who oppose Zionist murder on that list.

Concluding its comment, the paper affirms that the real way to peace is through condemning Israel's crimes, stopping its expansionist schemes, establishing the rights of the Palestinian people, restoring Arab lands which were occupied by force to their rightful owners, fending off harm and oppression which threaten the Palestinian people, and putting an end to the Zionist onslaught which carries death and destruction not only to the Arab region but also to world peace and stability.

Commentary 'Thanks' U.S. for Revealing Bias

JN2903171890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Perhaps what Washington deserves from the Arabs, instead of denunciation and condemnation of its policies against them are statements of thanks, appreciation, and gratitude. When its Senate decides to consider Jerusalem the capital of Israel, Washington truly deserves credit. For, without such a decision, how could Washington prove to us Arabs its absolute bias toward Israel and its continuous encouragement of the Israelis to continue their violations of international law and UN resolutions and their policy of annexation and occupation of Arab territories? How would the Arabs, without such decisions, know that the United States is totally oblivious to their feelings and all their rights? Had it not been for this decision—which encouraged the Israeli Knesset to declare that holy Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan should remain under Israeli sovereignty—our good intentions, as Arabs, would have led us to believe Washington's claims—claims that appear every now and then along with statements to the effect that it opposes Israeli occupation and expansion, and that it is, indeed, urging Israel to respond to peace calls.

We should thank Washington each time it takes a stand that supports the continuation of Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territpories; when it pressures other countries to put their airlines at the disposal of Israel and the emigrants; or when it allocates millions of dollars to ensure the settlement of those immigrants in these Arab territories. We should give credit to Washington for all these actions, because they confirm, in concrete and daily practice, the worthlessness of the positive positions it puts on show for the Arabs. These actions also reveal that its real and constant position mandates support for Israel's ambitions in, and expansion at the expense of, Arab lands.

We should also express gratitude to Washington because, had it not been for the decision recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, how would we Arabs have been convinced that the Baker plan does not grant the Palestinians any of their legitimate rights, unless illusion and mirage benefit truth in some way. And without the repeated malicious campaigns instigated by Washington against the Arabs all over the world—sometimes under the heading of terrorism and at other times under the allegation that the Arabs possess or are seeking to possess a certain type of destructive weapon, while it [Washington] remains silent on the largest, most modern and complex machines of killing and mass destruction that it is supplying to the Israeli arsenal—how would the Arabs know that they are all targeted by the United States, in their security, stability, and their efforts to develop and enhance their countries independently?

Finally, we send a thank-you note to the United States because, thanks to its constant and biased policies against the Arabs and their ambitions and aspirations, the eyes of all Arabs will always remain open to one fact; that is, the United States can only be against them no matter it claims because its practices refute its claims.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Groups Refuse Offer of AIG Posts

BK0304094790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Apr 90 p 8

["Bureau Report"]

[Text] Peshawar, April 2—Three small Peshawar-based Mujahidin groups are reported to have rejected offers by Afghan Interim Government (AIG) President Prof. Sebghatullah Mojaddedi to name one Minister and two Advisers in his government.

The Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami leader, Maulvi Nasrullah Mansur, in a statement claimed that he was offered the post of Minister for Tribes and Nationalities in the AIG, but he declined. Similarly, he said Qazi Muhammad Amin Waqad was offered the post of Adviser to the AIG President and Maulvi Rafiullah al-Mu'azin as an Adviser to the AIG Prime Minister.

Maulvi Nasrullah Mansur maintained that the Afghan issue could not be solved by dividing ministries among Mujahidin groups as was being done by AIG. He contended that the AIG was weaker than before despite the claims of its leadership. He stressed that unity in Mujahidin ranks could only be achieved by enforcing a comprehensive plan through the participation of all resistance groups, commanders and personalities.

Rabbani Rejects Coalition With Kabul Regime

PM0204131090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 27 Mar 90 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Rabbani Tells 'UKAZ: We Condemn Akhundzada's Assassination"]

[Text] Shaykh Burhanuddin Rabbani, reconstruction minister in the Afghan mujahidin government, has emphasized in an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ that various conspiracies are being hatched to split the mujahidin, as Mohammad Nasim Akhundzada and four of his companions were assassinated. He said: We condemn that abominable crime, which is a conspiracy hatched by various parties against the mujahidin.

Shaykh Rabbani urged the mujahidin to unite and confront these conspiracies in order to avert problems among themselves and to concentrate on the enemy, who must depart this year, God willing. Rabbani stressed that the mujahidin government still stands and is awaiting its entry into Afghanistan to topple the Kabul regime.

Furthermore, Shaykh Rabbani affirmed that the mujahidin government rejected, and continues to reject, Zahir Shah's return to power in Afghanistan.

With regard to the so-called "peace front" for which the Kabul regime is calling, Shaykh Rabbani said that it is not for peace, but for conspiracy, emphasizing that the Kabul regime has no right to speak on the Afghan people's behalf.

A prominent member of the ruling People's Party in Kabul has said that Zahir Shah would be invited to return to Kabul to attend a founding conference for a broadly-based "peace front." He also said that the conference on the new front would be held within four months.

Shaykh Rabbani confirmed that there will be no coalition between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime, pointing out that the Kabul regime wants to copy what is happening in Eastern Europe. He said: No change will occur in our position before the Soviet-backed agent government departs. And if the Soviets want peace, let them allow the Afghan people to determine their own future.

With regard to the evacuees' return to Afghanistan, Shaykh Rabbani said: Their return under present conditions is impractical, since food, accommodation, security, and stability are all lacking. He pointed out that the Afghans living inside are suffering from a famine. He concluded: Unfortunately attempts are being made to cut aid to the evacuees so as to force them to return to Afghanistan.

623 Reportedly Arrested After Failed Coup

LD0204165290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] At the request of Radio Afghanistan, the first deputy minister of the Ministry of State Security, esteemed Yar Muhammad has given an interview concerning those accused of involvement in the aborted Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup. We now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [reporter] Esteemed Yar Muhammad, first deputy minister of the Ministry of State Security, there are rumors that thousands of people have been arrested and imprisoned by the security forces because of involvement in the failed Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup. Please tell us the exact number of those arrested. And has one or more of those arrested been executed so far? And also, what is the number of officers and personnel of the armed forces who have left the country after the failure of the Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup? Please give us information in this regard.

[Yar Muhammad—in Dari] Some 623 people have been arrested in connection with the failed Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup. The dossiers on 55 of them have been completed and handed over to the court. Another 58 have been released. The dossiers of 62 have also been completed and are ready to be handed over to the special prosecutor's office in charge of assessing the coup. The rest of these people are under investigation. The rumors

that thousands of people have been arrested are only rumors; they are motivated by the enemy and embellished by foreign radios.

As for whether an individual or individuals from among the arrested has been executed, I should inform our compatriots that without the ruling of hte court, which works within the framework of the enforced laws of the Republic of Afghanistan, no Afghan citizen can be executed. And as I said before, investigation is still continuing and the trial of those whose dossiers are completed has not been concluded. Therefore no one has been executed in connection with this coup.

Regarding your other question, as to the number of those individuals and personnel of units and companies of the Republic of Afghanistan who have fled after the coup, it should be stated that, including Shahnawaz himself, the number is less than 30. And if there are rumors to the effect that thousands have joined the ranks of the enemy, these are only rumors and mere lies. Thank you. [end recording]

Kabul Admits Defection of Envoy in North Yemen

BK0204145990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 2 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said Monday [2 April] that its ambassador to North Yemen had defected and left that country just before last month's failed coup attempt against the Soviet-backed government here.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Afghanistan's ambassador to Aden, Asadullah Sarvari [name as received], left his post a few days prior to the March 6 coup effort launched by then Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay.

The diplomat left North Yemen without informing the government and went to India, the spokesman said, adding that the official had been stripped of his rank and political positions.

"Obviously, he was a part of the coup plan," the spokesman said.

Earlier, sources here had said that the government had asked India to repatriate Mr. Sarvari, but the spokesman declined comment on the report.

"We ask people all over the world to help us get these men, as they are criminals," the spokesman said, adding that "by now, Mr. Sarvari must be in Pakistan."

Mr. Sarvari, a career diplomat, had served in North Yemen for a little more than a year and was previously posted in Mongolia.

Defence Minister Tanay and 16 other top military and political officials fled Kabul for Pakistan after the coup bid failed, but Mr. Tanay has held a press conference inside Afghan territory since then.

Some 3,000 people have been arrested since the coup attempt, according to unofficial count, but the Afghan spokesman said Monday that the actual number was "much less."

"The process of investigation and arrests is continuing under the appropriate laws," he said.

He also confirmed reports that Kabul's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Muhammad Gulabzoy, had been stripped of his rank and position after the coup attempt.

Mr. Gulabzoy, who was posted as ambassador to Moscow in October 1988, had earlier headed the hawkish Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), now dominated by Mr. Najibullah's urban-based Parcham faction.

Both Mr. Tanay and Mr. Sarvari were senior Khalq members.

Government Reports Fighting Among Rebel Groups

BK0204153490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 2 (AFP)—Rival mujahidin resistance fighters have clashed in eastern Afghanistan leaving some 30 people dead, a government spokesman said Monday [2 April].

The spokesman said about 25 fighters of the Hezb-e Eslami, led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, and the Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami, headed by Nabi Muhammadi, had died in clashes in the Angar District of Laghman Province over the past few days.

Twelve people were wounded in the fighting and at least five civilians, including a child, were killed by intergroup shelling in the area, he said.

There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Internecine feuds between Afghan mujahidin groups often flare on the sidelines of the war, usually over territorial disputes and military rivalry.

Khad Provincial Chief Reportedly Killed

BK0204163890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have killed the Khad chief of Badghis Province during an attack on (Pule Abbas) region of Qal'eh-ye Now, the capital of the province. Four other agents were also killed in the attack.

MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] said more than 50 militiamen and soldiers of the Kabul regime surrendered to the mujahidin along with their arms and ammunition. It said the mujahidin launched a rocket attack on the oil storage [as received] of an army division of Qandahar, killing eight officers and 11 soldiers of the Kabul regime. Two armored

personnel carriers and six army vehicles were destroyed. They also killed about 40 servicemen and damaged three tanks in an attack on positions of Kabul regime troops in (Karwa) dam near Kabul.

Rival Rebel Groups Clash Over Depots

LD0304083590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 2, BAKHTAR—The weapons, munitions and food depots belonging to the extremist group of Wahabi Sayaf were recently attacked by Gulbuddin's extremists group in Alinegar district of Laghman province, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

During the attack, three Saudi Wahabis and two guards of the depots were killed and two Saudi Wahabis were severely injured.

By using heavy weapons and surface-to-surface rockets, the Gulbuddin extremist group has completely destroyed the said depots.

Military Source Reports Battle Situation

LD0304083690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, Apr.2, BAKHTAR—The extremists, Pakistani military men and Saudi Wahabis came under the heavy pressures of the government forces and were prevented to resort to any active combat activities in war fronts during the past 4 days, an authorised military source said to a BAKHTAR military correspondent today.

The enemies who took under their heavy attacks security belts around the Khowst grand district were heavily pounded by the artillery and air forces of the country. Ten extremists were cleared from the battle scene. Six servicemen and 3 civilians were wounded.

The Nangarhar garrison repelled attacks of the enemy made on some security posts in that province and killed 60 enemies.

The source further added that the garrison conducted a massive mopping up operation in the Dasht-e Gambiri area, north of the Jalalabad citx. Three enemies were killed during the operation. Attacks of the enemies wounded 7 servicemen and 2 civilians.

According to the same source the Sarpoosa, Gardana Baba, Torkotal and Makuwan areas [names as received], Qandahar-province, came under the sporadic attacks of the extremists and their allies during the same interval. No one was killed or wounded.

The armed forces retaliated and killed 36 enemies. Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy including 40 shells of recoilless gun, 6 mortars, and a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Curfew To Last Five Hours During Ramadan

LD3003181690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Mar 90

["Unscheduled announcement"]

[text] We request the esteemed citizens of Kabul with full respect to Ramadan to observe the curfew regulations from 2300 to 0400 [1830 GMT to 2330 GMT].

Bangladesh

President Admits Local Polls on 'Party-Basis'

BK3103032890 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 31 Mar 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] President Ershad of Bangladesh has for the first time admitted that elections just completed to the country's local representative bodies, known as Upzillas, were fought on a party-basis. Officially the elections were supposed to be non-party. Mark Tully reports from Dhaka that President Ershad's admission could have important political consequences for the country, especially as his own term of office ends next year.

[Begin Tully recording] In his first public speech since the election to local bodies known as Upzillas, President Ershad thanked voters for choosing candidates supported by his Jatiya Party. By admitting that elections were fought on a party-basis, the president can now claim that in spite of all the opposition's protests that they will not fight elections run by a government headed by him, they have taken part in these polls. The president's Jatiya Party performed poorly in these elections in view of the patronage it enjoyed and the fact that it was the main beneficiary of what rigging did take place. The party will, when all the results are in, have won the largest number of Upzillas, but it is not heading for an overall majority. The opposition Awami League is not far behind it. Although the leader of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, has attacked the elections as rigged and called President Ershad a military dictator, there will be pressure in the party to keep up this momentum and fight parliamentary elections if, as some believe, President Ershad calls them at the same time as the presidential elections due next year. The president is very anxious that the Awami League at least should take part in the next round of elections, (?giving) the results legitimacy. Begum Khalida Zia, the leader of the other main opposition party—the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], has accused Sheikh Hasina of planning to come to power with the help of President Ershad. Begum Zia explains her party's very poor showing in the Upzilla elections by claiming that members of the party only stood in less than one-quarter of the Upzillas and

then only in their personal capacity. But privately supporters of the BNP say that a new momentum will have to be put into the movement to oust President Ershad, if the party is to live down the results of these elections. [end recording]

Barter Trade Protocol Signed With USSR

BK0104125190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have signed a new barter protocol. The protocol stipulates each way exchange of goods worth about 20 million pounds sterling. The protocol was signed by Mr. M. Mukamal Haq, secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, on behalf of Bangladesh, and Mr. Vladimir Nikolayevich Burmistrov, deputy minister for foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, on behalf of his country on Wednesday last [28 March].

Japanese Mission Assures Continued Aid

OW0304003890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0004 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 3 KYODO—A high-powered Japanese mission Monday assured Bangladesh of Tokyo's continued assistance for development efforts in Bangladesh.

The 11-member "comprehensive consulting mission" from Japan arrived here Sunday night on a five-day visit to formulate "Japan's future economic assistance to Bangladesh in the medium and long-term," the official Bangladesh news agency BSS [Bangladesh News Agency] said.

The visit is significant, given the forthcoming official visit of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to Bangladesh, informed sources said.

Japan, which has become Bangladesh's number 1 donor surpassing the United States, has committed to Dhaka over 581 billion yen in grant, soft loans, and technical cooperation, Japanese Embassy sources said.

The mission will also visit several Japanese aid projects outside the capital Dhaka.

Jatiya Party Delegation Leaves for Beijing

BK0204164490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] A five member Jatiya Party delegation led by Joint Secretary and Minister for Environment and Forests Zafar Imam left Dhaka today for Beijing on a week long visit to China. The visit is taking place at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party.

University Students To Carry Identity Cards

BK0204162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1554 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, April 2 (AFP)—Dhaka University authorities Monday [2 April] ordered students to carry identity cards at all times after the violence-prone school reopens this week.

A university statement said the decision was taken at a meeting of the university's top officials, who also planned to consult security agencies before the university reopens Saturday. It has been closed for about 50 days.

Some 9,000 students who have been officially allocated accomodation in 13 dormitories of the university will be permitted to return Thursday, the statement added.

All classes at the school, often the scene of bloody violence linked to political rivalries, were suspended February 25 after a gunbattle on the campus left one student dead and former Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan injured.

Mr. Mannan resigned March 23 after student activists said calm would return to the campus only when he stepped down.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who is chancellor of the country's six universities, immediately replaced him with Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mian.

University sources said students have been asked to carry identity cards to make it easier for authorities to screen out outsiders taking refuge in the dormitories, adding that in the past many outsiders were believed responsible for violence on campus.

Some 24,000 students are enrolled in the university, a centre of Bangladesh student politics.

India

BJP Leader on Liberating Pakistan-Held Kashmir

BK0304011390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1906 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 2 (AFP)—A coalition ally of India's ruling National Front Monday urged Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government to "seriously consider" liberating Pakistan-ruled Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Meanwhile, the chief administrator of Indian-controlled Kashmir here said the situation in the state was improving after steps taken to curb separatist violence. Krishanlal Sharma, general secretary of the pro-Hindu Indian People's Party (BJP), was quoted by PTI as saying in Calcutta that New Delhi should seriously consider the "inevitable option of launching a counter-offensive to liberate the Pak-occupied Kashmir" unless Islamabad stopped interfering in India's internal affairs.

"We believe in diplomatic offensive, but we do not rule out military offensive as well to liberate the POK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). We must come out with a befitting answer," Mr. Sharma said, after renewing the Indian charge that Islamabad was aiding Kashmiri Muslim militants.

Pakistan, which also claims Kashmir and has fought two of its three wars with India over the disputed border state, has rejected the charge.

Mr. Sharma was addressing a press conference in the eastern Indian city on the eve of a meeting there of the policy-making national executive of the BJP, which backs the minority National Front Government of Mr. V.P. Singh. He also called for scrapping a constitutional provision that grants special autonomy status to Jammu and Kashmir State, the only Muslim-majority Indian State, PTI said.

In New Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir Governor Jag Mohan said Monday that the situation had begun to improve in Kashmir following the detention of more than 300 Muslim militants.

But "no time frame could be spelt out at this stage for return of normalcy," Mr. Jag Mohan told the press, after briefing Mr. V.P. Singh and other government leaders here on the Kashmir situation. He further rejected what he said were "highly exaggerated" death figures after security forces intensified their drive in Kashmir since he took over early this year. [passage omitted]

Governor Says Kashmir Situation 'Serious'

BK0304035190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that things in the state are moving in the right direction, though the situation is serious. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi last evening, Mr. Jag Mohan said the strengthening of the administration, rebuilding of the information system, activizing [as heard] the various agencies, imposition of dusk to dawn curfew in a five-km belt along the border, and various other measures have resulted in improving the situation. He said terrorism is the real issue and the people are scared.

Referring to the imposition of curfew frequently in the valley, the governor said it was imperative to ensure maximum results with minimum loss of life. An average citizen, he said, wanted curfew for the sake of safety.

Accusing Pakistan of mounting a continuous propaganda and creating a warlike situation, Mr. Jag Mohan said in such conditions no time frame for resolving the Kashmir problem could be given.

Commending the role of paramilitary forces, the governor said that they were fighting for the country under extreme pressure and unfavorable weather and topographical conditions. It is not justified to find fault with them.

When asked about the people's response to the governor's proposal to recruit youths from the valley in the BSF [Border Security Force], the governor said that so far 1,000 applications have been received. He denied any shortage of essential commodities in the valley and said that the government has sufficient stocks for over two months. In reply to another question, Mr. Jag Mohan said that restoration of normalcy in the state is a prerequisite for the success of any political process.

The situation throughout the Kashmir Valley is peaceful and no incident has been reported from anywhere during the night. Curfew was relaxed in Srinagar from 1800 to 2200 yesterday evening. It has again been relaxed for nine hours from 0700 this morning. The security has been further tightened in the border areas of the state to check infiltration of the Pakistan-trained subversives.

Nineteen militants, including two hard-core terrorists, have been killed and 82 arrested in encounters in different areas. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been seized. According to an official spokesman, the raids on the suspected hideouts of the subversives will continue.

Order Placed for Purchase of Kuwait Crude Oil

BK0204162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] India is to import 30 lakh tons of crude oil and petroleum products from Kuwait during the current financial year. A contract worth $447 million has been signed in Kuwait between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. India is likely to buy eight lakh tons of crude and petroleum products in addition to this during the current financial year.

PRC Sends Messages on Anniversary of Ties

BK0304040290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] China says it is ready to work with India for strengthening further their bilateral ties on the basis of the five principles of pancasila. Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Chinese president, Mr. Yang Shangkun, and the premier, Mr. Li Peng, said Sino-Indian friendship is not only in the fundamental interests of the two countries but also conducive to world peace. The Chinese leaders sent their messages to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, on the occasion.

11 Killed, 16 Hurt in Punjab 'Terrorist Violence'

BK0304094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons, including a terrorist, were killed and 16 others seriously injured in separate incidents of terrorist violence since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, two occupants of a minibus were killed in a road-mine blast in (Targadh) village of Majitha area of Amritsar District this morning. Elsewhere, terrorists shot dead a passenger after taking him out from a bus near village

Manawala in Amritsar District. A farmer and a youth were killed in (Karangwal) village in Tarn Taran last night. In Ludhiana, the terrorists struck in the house of a police head constable in village Sangawal and killed his parents and brothers besides him in indiscriminate firing.

In Amritsar District, about half a meter of a railway track was blown up in a powerful blast near Tikana railway station of the Amritsar-Khemkaran section of the Northern Railway last night.

Iran

Further on Yazdi Remarks on Rushdie, Cooper

LD3003212290

[Editorial Report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1734 GMT on 30 March carries an 82-minute video report on Sheykh Mohammad Ayatollah Yazdi's news conference of 18 March. Yazdi speaks about the judiciary's activities, UN envoy Galindo Pohl's visit, the problems of fraud relating to joint stock companies and the problems of profiteering and hoarding.

At one point Yazdi is asked a question by a foreign reporter, in English, "According to my understanding a decree is made under certain circumstances or conditions. How would these circumstances have to be changed to alter the decree? Especially with regard to the Salman Rushdie affair?" Yazdi replies, "Because the post of leader is the highest post in the country, commands [faramin] issued by the leader are matters for implementation, not matters of opinion of theory. They are issued, in other words, for the purpose of administration [bara-ye 'edareh kardan sader misheh]. The leader, for the purpose of running the country, issues orders [dasturat] which are administrative ['edari] orders and an administrative order is binding and must be implemented. It does not matter whether that command concerns pardoning a prisoner, concerns the appointment of a person to a post, concerns the execution of a military operation—as he is the commander-in-chief of the forces—or concerns a specific matter."

Yazdi continues, "As to the matter of Salman Rushdie, which the reporter used as an example, I think it has been made entirely clear as a result of a great deal of discussion. About Salman Rushdie, there are times when a view is expressed when it is a case of a fatwa or an opinion; there are other times when a decree [hokm] is issued. It has been said repeatedly that his eminence the imam issued a decree [hokm] about Salman Rushdie that corresponds to the word command [farman]. A decree is like a judge's verdict [hokm]; it is like in the judiciary. When a judge issues a verdict, when a leader issues a command and a decree, that is not an opinion saying, I think it is like this, so that another opinion can change that opinion; it is a decree. A decree is unchangeable. As you know, our eminent leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, has also issued the same decree [hokm] and the same decree by his eminence the Imam has been affirmed and it must be implemented. It is not a jurisprudential opinion or fatwa about which it can be said that if circumstances change, the opinion will change; and the circumstances have not changed at all in any case. A disrespectful person has violated the rights of nearly one billion people and has insulted their highest sanctities; he has trodden their rights underfoot. The leader has issued a decree saying that he must be punished for that crime. Acting on the basis of human rights dictates that the decree be implemented and the decree will undoubtedly be implemented by Muslims."

An Iranian reporter than asks; "I wanted to ask what a spy's punishment is in the Islamic Republic; what is Roger Cooper's offense; and, in a meeting which you had with one of his relatives, you expressed the hope that there may be some reduction of his sentence. Is such a reduction foreseen or not?" Yazdi replies; "The spy's offense has been stipulated in law in accordance with the degree of espionage and it is the judge which decides on the degree of offence and assigns the sentence. He [Roger Cooper], too, is an offender sentenced by a judge and he is serving his sentence. The phrase I said [to his relative] did not mean that his offense can be altered or a sentence can be altered. I am surprised that on that day, too, the press was not able to correctly report the matter. I said: Other than the leader, who has the prerogative to pardon, no other person can intervene with regard to a sentenced offender."

Following a question about hoarding and profiteering and other general issues another Iranian reporter asks a question about Cooper, "Your honor, Mr. Yazdi, I wanted to ask a more specific question about Roger Cooper. It is this: Mention has been made of a sentence and serving a sentence; has he been tried? How many years must he be in prison? Also, in general, can you say how many foreigners are currently serving sentences for spying in Iran?" Yazdi replies, "I have answered that question many times. He has been sentenced. He is serving his sentence. Undoubtedly anyone who has committed a similar offense has a similar sentence. Of course, I do not have any specific figures on how many of them there are and how many are foreigners and how many Iranians. However, I am sure that with regard to counterrevolutionary offenses relating to the revolutionary tribunal, there is such an offense and there are currently people condemend for that offense and in prison; there is certainly more than one person, as to how many, who and for how long, those are not matters which can be spoken of in detail. Let me say something about one point on which the reporter cast doubt in the question as to whether he has been tried or not: Let me say unequivocally that he has been tried, he has been sentenced, and he is serving his sentence. That has been said repeatedly." The reporter interrupts but his words are unclear. Yazdi breaks in and says, "No, the dossier has gone up to the ultimate level, that is, the Supreme Court, and it has been endorsed and affirmed."

ETTELA'AT Comments on Bush Telephone Call

NC0204132490 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Mar 90 p 2

[Unattributed political commentary: "Suppositions About the Fake Telephone Call"]

[Text] While making an announcement about the telephone conversation U.S. President George Bush had with an unidentified caller, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said:

From now on we will not deny the existence of any contacts, nor will we comment on whether or not contacts took place. It is possible that we may have contacts, but we are not going to mention them. He said: In the event the telephone conversation actually took place, the United States would not have revealed it because it would not have wanted the hostages' release to be jeopardized. He added: We wish to be frank with all of you, but obviously we do not wish to divulge anything which will endanger the hostages' freedom.

There is a sort of ambiguity and perplexity in these allegations, and the elements of different issues have been included in them.

According to the U.S. version, a person representing the Iranian president contacted the U.S. National Security Council and spoke to an adviser there, "Brent Scowcroft," saying that the Iranian president wished to speak to George Bush. Two days later, Bush spoke to someone he thought was the Iranian president and discovered that the caller was not the Iranian president. Perhaps an analysis of the telephone incident may prove enlightening in resolving the matter:

1. It may be assumed that the telephone scenario had been written and staged by the United States itself in order to give the impression that without taking the necessary precautions, George Bush is ready to speak to the Iranian president to get the hostages released or so that their lives may not be endangered.

This in itself is intended to give the impression that first, the U.S. President is actually seeking to resolve the hostage issue and second, Iran is the party particularly responsible for the continuation of hostage-taking.

2. The matter has been tailored so that the Iranian president is projected as the one who requested and eventually entered into a telephone conversation with George Bush and that the contact was initiated on behalf of Iran instead of the United States, which is just another variation of the first point. This is also intended to distort the image of Iran and the Islamic revolution in the eyes of the Lebanese Muslims and the world. A hue and cry should thus be raised over Iran's having indirect or covert contacts with the United States.

3. The first and second suppositions were on the assumption that the United States was the writer and director of the scenario. The third supposition is that the elements and groups opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], whose main field of activity is in the area of telephones, have arranged this affair. Their motives are also clear.

A. [as published] Following Galindo Pohl's visit to Iran and the relatively positive and realistic report regarding the conditions in the prisons and human rights in Iran and the issue of the release of the hostages, the Monafeqin, who are seeing their political and propagandistic decline and nearing their end, wished, from on the other sides of the Iranian borders, to depict the Iranian officials as unreliable people whose actions have no basis or substance.

The United States wants to hush up the matter so that it does not evolve into another Irangate. This matter of course concerns the United States and George Bush directly. However we should also know about the various aspects of the issue. Of course sincere, sensitive, and interested people should also not endeavor to tighten the screws of the matter to the extent that the United States succeeds. They should not make allegations which are as far removed from the interests of the revolution and the country as skin is from the brain or as the difference between immature sentiments and pure wisdom.

Karrubi Holds Talks With ANC's Nzo

NC0304063690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Alfred Nzo, secretary general of the African National Congress [ANC], yesterday held talks with Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Majles. At the meeting, Mr. Nzo said: In the course of my discussions with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I became aware of their support and backing for the oppressed people of our country.

He added: Despite the actions of the South African regime and the release of Mandela and seven other ANC members, our legal rights have not yet been restored. In the past few days, some of our people have been killed by the forces of the racist South African regime.

The ANC secretary general said: We held consultations in Harare last year, which were the basis of our talks with the South African regime. Commenting on the Harare resolution on the rights of the South African blacks, he said: The release of political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency, official recognition of the ANC, and the removal of restrictions on the people are among our demands as embodied in the Harare resolution.

The ANC secretary general continued: We ask the international community to continue exerting pressure on the racist South African regime. We have reached the point where we wish to set up a new republic.

At the meeting, the speaker of the Islamic Majles referred to the sensitive conditions in which the meeting was taking place and said: Our country is one which has

struggled against imperialism for many years and has tasted the pain of struggle and tyranny. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, we expanded our relations with the African Frontline States and the ANC. It is a source of immense regret to us that the idolatrous regime sold oil to the South African regime. This supply of oil was halted with the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles added: In general, the policy of the Islamic Republic is one of expanding ties with and supporting the oppressed African people as well as forging extensive relations with the Third World. In all religious, international, and political fields, we consider it our duty to support the people of Africa.

Mr. Karrubi continued: Our people are a revolutionary people whose sentiments are in harmony with the African peoples. Rest assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the African people with all its might.

Repaired Helicopters Complete Test Flights

LD0204131990 Tehran IRNA in English 1146 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 2, IRNA—Two repaired RH53D and SH3D helicopters were test-flown successfully and delivered to the Navy during a ceremony attended by Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani here today.

The helicopters underwent basic repairs in some 15,000 hours of work by Iranian experts at the Iranian helicopter industries.

RH3D heavy duty helicopters are U.S. made and their main task is to carry personnel and sweep mines at sea.

The Islamic Republic is now the third country capable of repairing such types of aircraft.

During the pre-revolution days these two types of copters were sent either to the U.S. or Italy for repairs, since the defunct shah's personnel lacked the necessary experience.

Satellite Ground Station Inaugurated Near Hamadan

LD0204131790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Deh-Heydar satellite ground station has been inaugurated and will be used by 6,000 residents of the villages of Deh-Heydar, Gol-Heydar, and Rehaneh in the vicinity of Hamadan. According to the Central News Unit, the television ground station, which was put into operation by the Voice and Visions's television and FM transmitters repair and maintenance unit of Hamadan, will allow the residents of the villages to receive the first television program on channel 10.

Nepal & Bhutan

'Official-Level' Talks With India Conclude

BK0204161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] India has proposed a draft agreement to Nepal which takes care of all outstanding problems between them. The two countries had agreed during their official-level talks in Delhi in February this year that India should prepare a draft agreement within the framework decided at that meeting.

An Indian official spokesman said that during the official-level talks in Kathmandu which ended this evening, India explained its position to Nepal on the draft agreement. He said New Delhi will now await Kathmandu's response and detailed comments on the draft agreement, and this will be considered at the next round of official-level talks. The venue and dates will be decided later. The spokesman said the outstanding problems include trade and transit, security concerns, and other matters which come out of the 1953 treaty between India and Nepal.

The foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, who led the Indian delegation, today called on the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Marich Man Shrestha, and the foreign minister, Mr. Hari Bahadur Basnyat.

Statement Issued

BK0304090690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] India and Nepal have agreed to continue their efforts toward a comprehensive solution to all outstanding problems between them. This has been stated in a joint press statement issued at the end of the India-Nepal official level talks in Kathmandu. The two delegations held another round of talks this morning. It was agreed that this comprehensive solution will be in a spirit of mutual understanding of each other's concerns and sensitivities, to which both sides are sincerely committed.

The statement says that the Kathmandu talks made further contribution in that direction. It points out that the talks were preparatory to the visit of the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, to Nepal.

All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the Nepalese side asked for time to study the draft agreement presented by India. The Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, has since left Kathmandu for New Delhi.

Further Reportage on Kathmandu Demonstrations

Delhi Reports Police Firing

BK0204160390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, three persons were killed and several injured when police opened fire on agitating demonstrators

in Kirtipur today. According to eyewitness accounts, a huge procession raising slogans in favor of multiparty system and against violation of human rights was on its way from Kirtipur to Kathmandu city when police resorted to firing.

Tension continues to grip the town of Patan. A big demonstration was held in the town in which thousands of people took part. Reports of demonstrations have also come in from Bhaktapur. The entire Kathmandu valley observed a bundh [strike] today in response to the call by the banned Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front in support of the multiparty system.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent reports that markets were closed and there were less number of vehicles on the roads. Most of the schools and campuses in the valley have already been closed.

More Deaths Reported

BK0304010490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, six persons were reportedly killed and several injured when police resorted to lathi [baton] charge, tear gassing, and firing on agitating demonstrators at different places in Kathmandu yesterday. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the capital city was plunged into darkness as people switched off their lights in the evening hours to express sympathy to those killed during the movement in favor of the multiparty system.

Six Die in Prodemocracy Clashes

OW0304072490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 3 (KYODO)—Six people died, four of them of bullet wounds, when police clashed with pro-democracy demonstrators in Katmandu on Monday, according to unofficial reports.

"It seems the number is only the tip of the iceberg," said a doctor at the Bir Hospital, Katmandu's principal health center, requesting anonymity.

Health workers at other hospitals said about 29 people were believed to have been shot, but only 13 cases have been reported to the hospitals. "They are probably at the police hospital," one health worker said.

The official media maintained a blackout on the demonstrations as well as the killings, reportedly under a new communications policy followed by the government. Until Monday, the state-owned newspapers had each given their own versions of incidents involving the protest movement, which is calling for the restoration of a multiparty system.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged With Kabul on Territory Violations

BK0204155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Pakistan has protested to the Kabul regime over violations of its airspace and territory by Kabul forces. The protest note was handed to the Kabul regime's charge d'affaires in Islamabad today.

Pakistan has also rejected a protest by the Kabul regime in which it alleged that Pakistani planes and helicopters violated Afghanistan's airspace. The Afghan charge d'affaires was told that these allegations were found to be incorrect and baseless after an investigation. He was also told to ask his government in Kabul to desist from leveling baseless allegations and from unprovoked violations of Pakistani territory.

Aims of Indigenous Arms Production Detailed

BK0204092690 Lahore THE NATION in English 2 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] Karachi—The direction of Pakistan's future defence production is towards high technology products like electronic proximity fuzes, TOW [tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided]-guided missiles, cluster bombs, and even something on the Surface-to-Surface Missiles like warheads [as published], it is learnt.

The new products ware well under way and are bound to catapault Pakistan to the state-of-art ammunitioners. All the products are to be produced at the Pakistan Ordnance Factories [POF] near Rawalpindi.

Under its modernisaton programme the POF has signed a contract for proximity fuzes, a memorandum of understanding has also been signed with the United States for the TOW-guided missile series.

A contract has been signed with another US firm for 155 mm artillery gun which would be hopefully delivered to the Pakistan Army by 1991.

Some other contracts have also been signed by the POF. The cluster bomb is under production and the first few pieces have been delivered to the Pakistan Air Force.

POF which produces everything aimed at indigenous production has been supplying weapons to the countries in the East and the West. The range of products almost covers the entire spectrum of production.

Its arms and ammunition have been supplied to 40 countries and at present it is working on contracts with nine countries in the past two to three years [sentence as published]. POF has tried to concentrate on the European and the American market supplying submachine guns and spares.

Now they are trying to focus attention on NATO—POF would like to be one of the contractors for the supply of spares to various NATO countries for their G-3 rifles and other popular weapons.

Exports of POF have increased over the years especially during 1988-89 when it earned half a billion rupees in terms of value they were 25-30 percent of the total production.

It also has collaboration with a number of countries and organisations as until recently POF was dependent on import of technology which could only be done in collaboration with the original manufacturer.

Now POF has started its own research and development efforts and consequently there are some products which are uniquely its own—not designed or based on somebody else's licence.

4 Killed, 15 Injured in Karachi Hotel Attack

BK0204161490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 2 (AFP)—Four people were killed and 15 others injured here Monday [2 April] in a pre-dawn attack on a hotel in the city's central district, officials said. The victims were attacked suddenly as they were drinking tea at a roadside hotel, witnesses said.

The killers escaped in the darkness and paramilitary troops had to move in to control the angry crowd, the witnesses said.

Officials maintained the incident had no ethnic undercurrent. The injured have been moved to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

3 Killed in Hyderabad Shooting Incidents

BK0304024490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Three people were killed in separate incidents of shooting at various places in Hyderabad yesterday. Patrolling by law enforcement agencies have been intensified and the curfew relaxation time has been reduced to one hour. A press note issued by the district magistrate said that curfew restrictions at (Markit) and Phuleli police station areas will now be relaxed from 1600 to 1730 [timing as heard] today.

110 Kg of Heroin Seized Near Afghan Border

BK3103133190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, March 31 (AFP)—Authorities seized 110 kilograms (240 pounds) of heroin hidden in crates of vegetables being shipped to the south of Pakistan from Peshawar, near the Afghan border, officials said Saturday [31 March].

It was the third mass heroin seizure announced in less than a week in Pakistan.

Last Sunday, 100 kilos (220 pounds) was confiscated from a truck near Quetta on a road leading to the Iranian border and another shipment of 80 kilos (175 pounds) was seized Thursday on a road near Sukkur in southern Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Officials, LTTE Discuss Security Matters

BK3003072590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] On the request of President R. Premadasa, Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, chairman of the northeast peace committee, visited Jaffna on Wednesday [28 March], met local leaders of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], and discussed a number of issues in order to ensure that there is no misunderstanding between the law enforcement authorities and the LTTE in their respective roles. Associated with Mr. Hameed were General Sepala Atygalle; Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera; Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe; Commander of the Navy Rear Admiral S.U.A Silva; Commander of the Air Force, Air Vice Marshal G.T. Gunawardene; and the law enforcement authorities of Jaffna. The LTTE delegation consisted of Dr. Anton Balasingham; the LTTE military adviser for Jaffna, Mr. (Balan); the LTTE political organizer for Jaffna, Mr. Rajah; the LTTE political adviser for Jaffna, Mr. (Sandy Dominique); and the LTTE organizer for the island, Mr. (James).

In a meeting which lasted two hours, the subjects discussed included establishment of proper understanding between law enforcement authorities and the LTTE, payment of compensation to those whose properties have been acquired by the government, the restoration of telecommunications facilities to Jaffna, the procedure to be followed by the Navy in their sea patrols, and removal of certain security checkpoints. The discussion was conducted in a friendly atmosphere and all issues were resolved satisfactorily.

LTTE Leader Emerges From Two Years in Hiding

BK0104162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran, has said that he wants his people to live independently and honorably. He was talking to local newsmen in northern Jaffna Peninsula after emerging from two and a half years in hiding. He said a settlement of our problems is likely soon because of President Premadasa's new approach to the Tamil problem.

Discusses Tamil Peace Efforts

BK0204152490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0850 GMT 2 Apr 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Leader Valupillai Prabhakaran, who emerged from two and a half years of hiding yesterday, told reporters that the current peace in the Northeastern Province is the result of President Premadasa's bold and fresh approach and hoped it would endure. The 36-year-old LTTE chief, dressed in military fatigues, said: "For about a year we have been holding talks with the Lankan Government. I am happy that these talks which were held with mutual respect have made constructive progress. Peace had dawned in our areas as a result of these talks."

He added: "It seems the Indian and Lankan Governments have realised the futility of trying to solve the problems of the Tamils through military repression. Today's peace has been created due to President Premadasa's bold and new approach. My wish is that this peace should endure and our people lead a life of free men with self-respect and adequate security".

Prabhakaran, who met 15 Lankan pressmen at a heavily guarded house in Nallur, said: "The realisation of his wish for peace depended on the attitude and approach of the Sinhala people and their leaders. They should come forward to redress the historic injustices done to the Tamil people. If justice is denied and repression unleashed again, we will not hesitate to continue the armed struggle to ensure the independence and security of our people", he warned.

Prabhakaran, who was flanked by Messrs. Anton Balasingham, Mahattaya and Yogaratnam Yogi, said the Tamil struggle for justice had reached a turning point. They had reached a stage where they had to alter the form of their struggle.

"We have decided to adopt the democratic process. We have decided to build up our party and expand its influence so that it can emerge as the sole voice of the Tamil people. We are no enemies of democracy. All these days we fought for our democratic rights. Our aim is to build a just and free society. The Sri Lanka Government should come forward to help us in this task", he said.

He said they fought a war with India because she asked them to lay down their arms without ensuring the fulfillment of Tamil aspirations. India had failed to disarm them though it used its maximum firepower. India learnt a bitter lesson for making this mistake.

"We believe that Colombo will not make the same mistake", he said.

Prabhakaran said a cease-fire existed between the Tigers and the Lankan Army. But the basic problems of the Tamil people have not been solved. The economy of the Tamil areas are in tatters. The war damage has not been repaired.

Repression against the people has not been abandoned completely. People are still scared about their security. But some communal newspapers are calling upon the Tigers to surrender arms.

"I advise those papers to go into the causes for our taking to arms instead of asking us to hand them over. I appeal to the Sinhala people to come forward to remove the basic causes that forced us to take to arms."

He said: "A solution to bearing arms will not be found till an agreeable solution is found to the ethnic problem. [no closing quotation mark as received] He hoped that the Sinhala people and their leaders would appreciate that position.

"Our struggle will continue till we achieve for our people a life free from fear, permanent peace and prosperity", Prabhakaran said.

He blamed the Rajiv Gandhi government for trying to obtain its geopolitical ambitions and internal stability in India at the cost of Tamil aspirations and hoped the new government would correct that mistake. The LTTE, he said, had proved to the world by taking on the fourth largest army in the world that yearnings of oppressed people could not be snuffed by armed might.

Making overtures to the new Indian leadership, Prabhakaran said the Tigers are no enemies of the Indian people or the Indian leadership. They only opposed the political and military intervention of the former Indian Government. He asked New Delhi to realise that the just demands of the Tamil people are not detrimental to Indian interests and stability. On the basis of that understanding India should approve and support the just demands of the Tamil people.

Prabhakaran appealed to the Tamils and the Muslims to support and strengthen the LTTE.

Commanders Say Indians Learned 'Expensive Lesson'

BK3003120190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Indian troops have learned an expensive lesson in Sri Lanka, but top military commanders here say they returned as battle-hardened soldiers with an experience in guerrilla warfare not found anywhere else. Lieutenant General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, commander of the Indian Peacekeeping Force—the IPKF—said they learned many lessons in many fields and also provided the catalyst to resolve the island's ethnic conflict. At a ceremony on Wednesday [28 March] officially welcoming the last of the returning troops, General Kalkat told reporters they had gained valuable experience among other things in dealing with the foreign government.

Major General Rabindranath Bhalla, officer in charge of the troops in Jaffna—heartland of Tamil separatism in Sri Lanka—said his division of 20,000 men had gained plenty from the offensive against Tamil rebels. My

soldiers are battle-hardened. Their morale is very high. What more do you need, he said, adding that most of the men, himself included, will take leave after the exhausting deployment in a foreign land. Sri Lanka had been a costly combat laboratory for India. Its casualties officially listed at 1,155 dead and nearly 3,000 seriously wounded had been the highest for the Indian Army during a peacekeeping mission abroad. Our casualties are nothing compared to the American casualties in Vietnam. The Indian Army can take it, General Kalkat said.

During the height of the offensive, New Delhi had up to 75,000 troops in the island. Political observers here have said the withdrawal extricated India from a Vietnam-type fiasco. Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa demanded the IPKF withdrawal after opening talks with dominant Tamil rebels last year.

800 Prisoners Released on 'Special Amnesty'

BK0304104090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1014 GMT 3 Apr 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 3 (LANKAPUVATH)—800 prisoners were released today from prisons throughout the country on a special amnesty granted by Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, commissioner of prisons, H.G. Dharmadasa told LANKAPUVATH. He said that Vijaya Munige Vijitha Rohana de Silva, the naval rating who hit the world headlines by dealing former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi a blow with a rifle butt while he was inspecting a guard of honour before his departure from Colombo after signing the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord on July 30, 1987, was also released from the Welikada prison this morning.